THE PAPER TRIP II



For a
NEW YOU
through
NEW ID

EDEN PRESS

THE PAPER TRIP II

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DEDICATED to

All who would seek new opportunities
And greater personal freedom
Through New Identity

1995
EDITION

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Why THE PAPER TRIP II?

In 1971 I wrote and published a book called *THE PAPER TRIP*, now titled *THE PAPER TRIP I*. My purpose was to detail a method by which individuals could change their identity. *THE PAPER TRIP I's* method has proven exceedingly successful, perhaps too much so.

In November, 1974, the Justice Department formed the "FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FALSE IDENTIFICATION" (FACFI), to propose solutions to what they termed "ID fraud." Their 800 page report, issued late 1976, stops short of recommending a national ID card. What FACFI wants is cross-referencing of birth and death records, and the tightening of procedures for issuing other forms of government ID, especially drivers licenses. Whether Congress and the states follow through on the FACFI proposals is debatable. Many bureaucratic toes would be stepped on, and state officials may once again suffer the insolence of federal directives to "comply." Federal funds may sweeten the deal, however.

What should really concern the FACFI is whether their proposals will ultimately *work*. We can foresee much wrangling among the states and their vital records bureaucrats, and perhaps piecemeal implementation here and there. We do not believe there will be any federal centralization of vital records, but rather more closely administered procedures in existing agencies, primarily the Passport Office and HEW, which administers the Social Security programs.

The supposed problem of "ID fraud" generates low-level interest among law enforcement people, both state and federal. The prevailing attitude among prosecutors, born out in practice, is that laws are already in existence to combat the types of crimes associated with false ID. Adding a new layer of law isn't going to increase their "clearance rates." In typical "false ID" cases (fraud, embezzlement, smuggling, etc.) the false ID aspect is dropped in favor of prosecuting the more serious charges.

But my concern is not for bureaucratic efficiency in maintaining ID records on individuals. To the contrary, my object is to minimize this trend towards total government control. I believe that every new system or plan for gathering data on individuals is an actual lessening of personal freedom. The more known about a person, the fewer his alternatives. There is only one ultimate purpose for maintaining records on people, and that purpose is CONTROL, control of individuals' lives.

I still believe individuals can, and should, control their own lives. We owe "Big Brother" NOTHING! So why should we cooperate, sheep-like, while the hundreds and thousands of bureaus and agencies continue to extract personal information, computerize it, cross-reference it, and then distribute it to all comers? Is this what "The Land of the Free" is all about?

The FACFI "bought" the basic premise of *THE PAPER TRIP I*. Intelligently, they admitted the methods work very well, but they assumed that closing the loopholes I exposed would end the problems of "ID fraud." They completely ignored the fact that at any given time several hundred thousand individuals *need* to use paper trip methods to survive. They claim to be concerned only with the criminal use of false ID, but their proposals would cut off an important source of safety and new freedom to *non*-criminals. And lest we forget: "Laws" can make *ANYTHING* illegal.

My purpose in writing *THE PAPER TRIP II* may seem "subversive" to some. But then, the desire for greater freedom *is* subversive to all those who want to control others. My concern is for the individual and the universe of potential he represents. *THE PAPER TRIP II* can hopefully serve as his guide to new and greater personal freedom. Onward! —Barry Reid, 1981

UPDATE NOTES, 1985

Since the above remarks were written a major new development has occurred. The federal government passed Public Law 97-398, which is known as the "False Identification Crime Control Act of 1982." It became effective January 1, 1983. It is reproduced below in all its glory.

We will not presume to provide a complete legal interpretation of this law; for exact meanings you would be best advised to consult an attorney. A few general observations will give you as fair idea, however, of just what this new law means.

Congress was concerned primarily with lessening the effects of fraud committed against the federal government and the states. Too many government programs have become the targets of thieves who simply used false ID to claim benefits. Once their false names and numbers were entered in the various computer systems, the money just flowed automatically. Welfare agencies, unemployment programs, disability, even the IRS itself became victims of unscrupulous individuals who chose alternate ID as a tool of crime.

Despite our very real concern for "new ID," we cannot condone criminal activity of this nature, and applaud the federal government for taking a strong stand against what are really low-life kinds of people, namely, those who would choose to live off others. It's about time! The focus of Public Law 97-398 is primarily on those who would use ID to defraud government, and we feel it will serve as traditional "teeth" in going after these swindlers and freeloaders.

This new law also goes after strictly privately-issued ID sold by mail, in that it requires the legend "NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT" if the card carries either a birthdate or age of the holder. This somewhat knocks the wind out of the sails of the mail order ID industry, since most of their potential customers are young people wanting to have ID for an older age. Before this law was passed there was no control at all on the sales of privately-issued ID cards.

The kind of ID the law is attempting to control is that which could best be described as counterfeit. This explains the mention of a "document-making implement," since various tools and materials are needed to produce convincing ID.

From the start of the Paper Trip in 1971 the principal concept has been obtaining genuine, government-issued documents, never counterfeit. It is our belief that there are enough ways to accomplish this without violating the law. Everyone likes loopholes, and we feel those in need of alternate identification have every right to know about them.

This new edition of THE PAPER TRIP II has been updated with the new federal law in mind, and can serve as a guiding light to those for whom a new identity will indeed provide a new beginning. — BR



Public Law 97-398
97th Congress

An Act

To amend title 18 of the United States Code to provide penalties for certain false identification related crimes.

Dec. 31, 1982
[H.R. 6946]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "False Identification Crime Control Act of 1982".

False Identification Crime Control Act of 1982.
18 USC 1001 note.

SEC. 2. Chapter 47 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

18 USC 1028.

"§ 1028. Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents

"(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (c) of this section—

"(1) knowingly and without lawful authority produces an identification document or a false identification document;

"(2) knowingly transfers an identification document or a false identification document knowing that such document was stolen or produced without lawful authority;

"(3) knowingly possesses with intent to use unlawfully or transfer unlawfully five or more identification documents (other than those issued lawfully for the use of the possessor) or false identification documents;

"(4) knowingly possesses an identification document (other than one issued lawfully for the use of the possessor) or a false identification document, with the intent such document be used to defraud the United States; or

"(5) knowingly produces, transfers, or possesses a document-making implement with the intent such document-making implement will be used in the production of a false identification document or another document-making implement which will be so used;

"(6) possesses an identification document that is or appears to be an identification document of the United States which is stolen or produced without authority knowing that such document was stolen or produced without authority;

or attempts to do so, shall be punished as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

"(b) The punishment for an offense under subsection (a) of this section is— Penalties.

"(1) a fine of not more than $25,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, if the offense is—

"(A) the production or transfer of an identification document or false identification document that is or appears to be—

"(i) an identification document issued by or under the authority of the United States; or

"(ii) a birth certificate, or a driver's license or personal identification card;

"(B) the production or transfer of more than five identification documents or false identification documents; or

"(C) an offense under paragraph (5) of such subsection;

"(2) a fine of not more than $15,000 or imprisonment for not more than three years, or both, if the offense is—

"(A) any other production or transfer of an identification document or false identification document; or

"(B) an offense under paragraph (3) of such subsection; and

"(3) a fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, in any other case.

"(c) The circumstance referred to in subsection (a) of this section is that—

"(1) the identification document or false identification document is or appears to be issued by or under the authority of the United States or the document-making implement is designed

or suited for making such an identification document or false identification document;

"(2) the offense is an offense under subsection (a)(4) of this section; or

"(3) the production, transfer, or possession prohibited by this section is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce, or the identification document, false identification document, or document-making implement is transported in the mail in the course of the production, transfer, or possession prohibited by this section.

Definitions.

"(d) As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'identification document' means a document made or issued by or under the authority of the United States Government, a State, political subdivision of a State, a foreign government, political subdivision of a foreign government, an international governmental or an international quasi-governmental organization which, when completed with information concerning a particular individual, is of a type intended or commonly accepted for the purpose of identification of individuals;

"(2) the term 'produce' includes alter, authenticate, or assemble;

"(3) the term 'document-making implement' means any implement or impression specially designed or primarily used for making an identification document, a false identification document, or another document-making implement;

"(4) the term 'personal identification card' means an identification document issued by a State or local government solely for the purpose of identification; and

"(5) the term 'State' includes any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other possession or territory of the United States.

"(e) This section does not prohibit any lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, or of an intelligence agency of the United States, or any activity authorized under title V of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 (18 U.S.C. note prec. 3481).".

SEC. 3. The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1028. Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents.".

SEC. 4. (a) Chapter 83 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

18 USC 1738

"§ 1738. Mailing private identification documents without a disclaimer

Penalties

"(a) Whoever, being in the business of furnishing identification documents for valuable consideration, and in the furtherance of that business, uses the mails for the mailing, carriage in the mails, or delivery of, or causes to be transported in interstate or foreign commerce, any identification document—

"(1) which bears a birth date or age purported to be that of the person named in such identification document; and

"(2) knowing that such document fails to carry diagonally printed clearly and indelibly on both the front and back "NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT" in capital letters in not less than twelve point type;

shall be fined not more than $1,000, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

Identification document

"(b) For purposes of this section the term 'identification document' means a document which is of a type intended or commonly accepted for the purpose of identification of indviduals and which is not issued by or under the authority of a government.".

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 83 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new item:

"1738. Mailing private identification documents without a disclaimer."

Approved December 31, 1982.

MEET: BIG BROTHER

The need for personal protection from our own government has become all the more urgent. President Reagan, by executive order, has unleashed the CIA from restrictions imposed on the agency in the late 1970s. The CIA is now authorized to engage in *domestic* spying, infiltrate U.S. organizations, conduct covert activities within the U.S., and shadow American citizens abroad without first establishing evidence that they are working for a foreign power.

The CIA has been given a blank check to return to the abuses of the past. Despite presidential assurances that operatives will not be allowed to influence activities of groups or otherwise create violations of civil liberties, we know these are exactly the results to expect. Government informers exist to report information; if nothing illegal occurs, they have been known to *provoke* illegal activity simply to justify their despicable jobs. The knowledge a group has that it *might* be infiltrated is more than enough to "influence" its activities. Who's kidding whom?

Unless Congress chooses to intervene with a clear-cut charter of responsibility for the CIA (and the FBI, we might add), we might as well say farewell to the First Amendment. We sincerely hope Congress will not allow free citizens to be ruled by executive decree. In the meantime, freedom-seeking individuals had better be looking out for their *own* freedom. Our government doesn't seem to want to help. President Reagan's call for "less control" is misleading. Actions really do speak louder than words. . .

Why develop the Paper Trip philosophy? Because we live in a "Big Brother" society, allowing government to carry our burdens and direct our lives. By trading our independence for a kind of risk-free existence, we lose the joy of living that lies in "accepting life on its own terms (and) taking responsibility for our own decisions," according to the April-May, 1973, edition of *FACTS*, a publication of the Institute of Public Affairs, Melbourne, Australia.

"We all agree that a modern government should do everything it can to promote equality of opportunity and protect the more luckless members of society. But one must wonder whether a society in which government has a finger in pretty well every pie will lead to greater happiness and better human beings. In any case, what could be more boring than having a life virtually mapped out for us from the cradle to the grave?"

The federal government has 3.2 *billion* separate files on citizens — which averages out to 18 files per person, according to computer specialist Rich Richardson. The Department of HEW alone has 1.9 billion computerized files on Americans. Big Brother *currently* has the capability of issuing an identification number — which would function as an employee number, checking account number, credit card number, tax number, and police record number — to every citizen at birth. This has been, AND STILL IS, an actual HEW proposal!! In fact, a data storage system which could accommodate this plan already exists. "The IBM 3850 mass storage system is 15 feet by 6 feet by 2 feet," Richardson says. "It would be possible to store in that system the name, address, phone number, complete income tax history, complete employment history, educational background, medical records, family geneology, criminal records, political and religious affiliations and 200 other facts on every person in the U.S. And all of the files on all of the Americans could be pulled out of that system in four hours. . . ."

The increasing use of Social Security numbers and the collection of credit information in data banks threatens an information tyranny that could trap an individual with his past actions. Military surveillance presents a frightening example of the extremes to which this kind of digging for personal information can lead. "At the height of its monitoring, the Army engaged over 1500 plain clothes agents to collect information. It was not unusual to find in the Army files details of one's membership, associations, remarks, published statements, attendance at meetings, personal finances, sexual activities, arrests and personality quirks preserved in everlasting perpetuity," states a report by a Senate subcommittee on constitutional rights.

"If we have learned anything (from) Watergate, it is that there must be limits upon what government can know about each of its citizens," said former Senator Sam J. Ervin. "The FBI, for example, possesses raw arrest data on about 10 percent of the population, and it receives about 11,000 requests daily for arrest record information. This leads to a large outflow of data that eventually will filter down through many levels throughout the country."

The states and the federal government are going in for "data sweeping." With the expanding use of automatic data processing equipment, the amount and variety of shared information can mean that an audit on the state level may trigger a federal audit. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia have "agreements of cooperation" with the IRS on the exchange of data about taxpayers. Nevada and Texas, the two states without an income tax, are the only states that do not participate in the arrangement. Furthermore, under an agreement designed by the Multistate Tax Commission, states are exchanging information about tax returns.

It is "a simple matter for anyone with banking knowledge to literally write your biography from bank records," according to Rep. Fortney Stark, a former banker. This "truth" is intimidating when you realize that almost all federal agencies can review your financial records, discover the magazines you take and the political contributions you make, and sift through the thousands of documented details of your life.

America is becoming a nation of snoopers, according to Senator Charles H. Percy. One major abuse is the government's attempts to unleash the IRS on its "enemies." Other questionable practices include widespread access to the extensive records kept on children in tax-supported schools and FBI surveillance of mail. As an illustration, he said that the FBI started a file on a New Jersey high school student because she wrote for information from the Young Socialist Alliance, which was under bureau surveillance.

"The burgeoning abuse of the right of individual privacy results partly from a greatly increased capability of even a moderately endowed private or public organization to obtain, store and use vast quantities of information about people," Percy stated. "This phenomenal technical information-handling ability is abetted by the absence of regulation. The result is a tremendously increased potential for damaging misuse of personal information — data that the person under scrutiny does not know is so readily available."

Files on citizens quietly "accumulate" over the years with little regard to personal rights or potential damage. Besides government data-collectors, private agencies are major paper pushers, supplying America's information "habit." The U.S.'s biggest consumer investigative agency, Equifax, reports that it has dossiers on at least 48 million persons. The largest association of credit bureaus says its members have access to about 100 million files on a share computerized network. The standard excuse is that problem-solving bureaucratics need information upon which to base their decisions. However, as Doug Lea of the ACLU points out, "The trouble is, no one seems to know when enough information has already been collected."

Personal dossiers compiled in manual and computerized files by insurance companies, credit bureaus and federal agencies are extremely dangerous. The threat is not so much the quantity of statistical information as the quality of data. Information which is not valid for judgment — such as dress, lifestyle, and sexual and religious preferences — appears in records that provide data for decisions on hiring, firing, and granting credit and loans. Also, many individuals suffer anxiety over the threat of "psychological surveillance" and the loss of privacy of opinions, thoughts and even emotions. With the microminiaturization of electronics, low-light photography, parabolic microphones, and other "James Bond" techniques, people can no longer be sure they are in private. Voice frequency stress evaluators and other new, inhibiting lie detecting techniques are used for job interviews by department stores, police departments and many others. . . .

FRAUDULENT USE OF DATA BANKS BY INSURANCE COMPANIES BEING INVESTIGATED

FTS INSECURITY

The federal government, the leading eavesdropper in the United States, is bugged about its own lack of security.

A memo from the General Services Administration warned agencies that the government's own Federal Telecommunications System "normally does not have security features to protect against either loss of, errors in, or interception of information. Therefore, the security and confidentiality of information transmitted over the FTS is not ensured."

However, the Privacy Act of 1974 requires safeguards for the protection of data in individuals' records. Agency employees "responsible for design, development, operation, or maintenance of (data) systems (should) appropriately consider the security capabilities of the FTS," the GSA said.

ON A PRIVACY NOTE, READ THIS EXCERPT

Heat is being put on 56 insurance companies indicted last summer by a Denver grand jury (NR 152) for the naughty way they went about getting confidential information through Factual Service Bureau, Denver, Colorado. Factual (now operating elsewhere under the name of Innerfacts, Inc.) has been charged with obtaining criminal records, tax records, Social Security payments and medical records for insurance company use in settling claims. The firm's illegal operation out of Denver was going on all over the country. An internal investigation is going on at the Internal Revenue Service to find out how Factual was able to bypass IRS security systems and get information on personal income taxes and Social Security payments. The FBI has refused to comment on how Factual was able to crack their security systems to get computerized criminal histories. The grand jury has obtained a court order to release exhibits and transcripts to the Privacy Protection Study Commission in Los Angeles. *Comment:* Success of this relatively unsophisticated method of penetrating our nation's super-secret data banks should be noted by the credit card industry which has repeatedly been told Electronic Funds Transfer Systems (EFTS) will be made secure." The Nilson Report #154

BIG BROTHER LISTS

The Nixon Administration's penchant for list-keeping was not an unusual bureaucratic practice.

Don't feel slighted if you did not appear on the Enemies List. You probably will find your name on one of the other 6600 lists kept by the federal government, according to a Knight News Wire story.

"Federal agencies have amassed vast amounts of information about virtually every American citizen that conceivably could be used for other than legitimate purposes and without prior knowledge or consent of the individuals involved," President Ford stated in the foreword of a book entitled *Protecting Your Right To Privacy.*

The 750-page book, published by the General Accounting Office, was forced into existence by the federal privacy act. Identifying only the lists, not the names, the publication is available for $5 from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

You can ask an agency to disclose whether your name is on a specific list. However, the agency does not have to reveal the purpose of the list.

The Department of Defense's lists filled 169 pages of the GAO's book, including, for example:

— "Any citizen who writes a Congressman and is so identified by the Congressman in his request to the office";

— "Any citizen who applies for access to unclassified files";

— "Journalists, authors, editors, columnists, researchers, representatives of the news media, Congressmen and other public figures who demonstrate a consistent interest in Army-related subjects."

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, awarded runner-up honors in list-keeping, has an interest in everyone with a Social Security number and everyone who has ever been a welfare recipient.

The Treasury Department received third place honors, with anyone who ever paid income taxes making up its longest list.

The Central Intelligence Agency lists, among others, authors of articles concerning the CIA and individuals appearing in the news media.

If you have ever complained about anything to the federal government or asked about any subject, you are likely to find your name on a list.

A minimum of 858 federal data banks, containing at least 1.2 BILLION records are in operation; and this is only a count of the systems that agencies were *willing to admit* they maintain. It is impossible to determine the number of individuals who are in the data banks' files. The major obstacle in ascertaining specific statistics and GSA plans is the various agencies' attitude of disdain, affecting even requests for non-sensitive data, according to Senator Ervin. "The subcommittee met evasion, delay, inadequate and cavalier responses, and all too often a laziness born of a resentment that anyone should be inquiring about their activities. Some agencies displayed their arrogance by not replying at all. With others, extracting information was like pulling teeth."

A threat to individuality exists in the increasing sophistication of a computer technology which someday could combine all the separate files on a citizen onto one "master profile," according to a UPI story by David Nagy. Big Brother accumulates and stores data in more than 7000 government computers. Commercial credit bureaus and investigative agencies are ballooning into huge industries while pandering to the insatiable appetites for data of banks, loan firms, insurance companies, employers and landlords.

More than 150 million Americans have their names stored in government computer banks, former President Nixon once admitted. "At no time in the past has our government known so much about so many of its citizens," he said; and that was in 1974!

"We're leaving bits of information about ourselves all over the place, information we've lost control of forever, and we have no way of knowing who will get it and what he will use it for," according to Doug Lea, director of the ACLU's privacy project. And, as one HEW report states, an individual "can never know when some piece of trivia, obtained for one purpose, will close a noose of circumstantial evidence about him" at another time.

Although the General Services Administration denies preparations for a massive computerized data bank known as FEDNET in 1972, GSA officials *do* admit to planning the "New Equipment Project," a computer service to be shared by the Department of Agriculture and the GSA. Aiming to "get the most for the taxpayers' dollars," the agency does admit that it had to "drastically curtail the procurement" of the computer system, due to the public outcry against the opportunity for invasion of privacy. Bureaucrats may modify programs to placate irate voters, but they seldom change their views. "We simply cannot meet the complex needs of a modern society without large amounts of information," insists Arthur F. Sampson of the GSA. "That requires computers and the modern communication systems needed for their use."

The $100 million FEDNET computer network would have fed federal agencies' files through a central processing unit called "the black box," according to M. Meeker, head of the GSA's FEDNET planning agency. Yet, as Meeker admitted, "You can't buy a secure box — a black box that guarantees privacy security. It's people who make the security. It will have to be done through the controls of law." The FEDNET concept lacked a vital safeguard; it did not guarantee that each user of the computer would be recorded, as well as the nature of the information retrieved. Meeker defined FEDNET as a state of mind, a philosophy and not a physical system. Although plans for the system *supposedly* have been scrapped, individuals still must battle this pervasive federal mentality which is fixated on the need for a federal data bank.

NCIC, YOU SEE?

The National Criminal Information Center's (NCIC) massive computer system has been "off-limits" to the public since its creation in 1967. Camouflaged among warehouses near the U.S. Capitol, the high-security complex is a symbol for many of us of Big Brother's disregard for the American citizen's rights to privacy. Any of the system's 4.1 million files, stored in computer discs, magnetic storage drums and tapes, can be sent into state or city terminals almost instantly.

The NCIC's Computerized Criminal Histories (CCH), also called "rap sheets," store the records of at least 445,800 persons arrested for serious offenses. The files include the names of persons who were arrested but never prosecuted; persons tried and found innocent; persons who were convicted but have since "gone straight"; and persons who might be likely suspects in current crimes, according to UPI. State and federal hiring and licensing agencies — not to mention credit bureaus, banks and private employers — have had access to these records. An incorrect entry can plague an innocent individual for the rest of his life.

Few laws exist to control the NCIC information system, or public and private data banks. According to the HEW's report *Records, Computers and the Rights of Citizens,* "the new criminal justice information network can be used in conjunction with the vast government and private dossiers being compiled by credit bureaus, insurance companies, welfare agencies, mental health units and others. Cumulatively, these files threaten an information tyranny that could lock each citizen into his past; they signal the end of a uniquely American promise — that the individual can shed his mistakes and entanglements and start out anew."

According to an NCIC policy statement, the NCIC and companion state systems do not fulfill non-law enforcement requests for records (such as checks on applicants for federal jobs or for professional or business licenses) unless specifically required by federal or state law. Records are maintained in the criminal histories sections on felonies and "serious" misdemeanors, complete with accompanying fingerprint cards. "Social" or "political" data is supposed to be deleted. Also, a person has the right to see and correct his own record — as long as his fingerprints match the ones on his file card.

NCIC spokesmen *say* that the files are reviewed and updated to prevent mistakes and discrepancies. The FBI and authorized state agencies are allowed to make direct entries into the system. State and local agencies participating in the program are required to safeguard their computer terminals. However, with the system's growth and the increase in computer crime expertise, this is not an easy objective to accomplish.

As the NCIC compiles more and more data, the information becomes increasingly desirable to many public and private organizations which may not be aware that the files often contain outdated or incorrect statements. "Say you're a policeman and you moonlight for a department store as a security guard. The department store has some prospective employees it wants to run checks on. You go down to the station and request the checks. That's all there is to it," says Arnold Rosenfeld of the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Commission. This dangerous "secondary" access is available to most of the large credit rating associations, which assume computer information is correct.

An error programmed into NCIC files can seriously impair the future of a defendant seeking release on bail, a convict seeking parole or a former convict applying for a government job or a state business license. A comparison of one week's use of California's local court records and the state records sent to the FBI "found inaccuracies in disposition data in *100 percent* of the sampled records of some courts," according to a General Accounting Office report. In similar "confusion," one week of investigation in Florida found that misunderstandings about state policy led 13 criminal justice agencies to "either allow unauthorized access to the files or furnish criminal history data to agencies not authorized to receive it," the report says. If these "flaws" appear in randomly-selected investigations, what errors must continue routinely throughout the nation?

COMPUTER FAILS . . . AGAIN

On the evening of October 24, 1974, James Mackey was attempting to "thumb a ride" north of Las Vegas, Nevada. Two local police officers approached and asked him to identify himself. He produced a California drivers license, which they ran through NCIC; they learned Mackey was wanted in California for probation violation. They arrested Mackey despite his protests that the violation had been resolved over five months prior. The police did call the California authorities and learned that Mackey's story checked out — but not before they also charged him with possession of an unregistered firearm.

Mackey went to the U.S. District Court in Nevada to have the firearm charge dropped, and the court agreed. The judges held that Mackey's arrest based solely on NCIC information which was inaccurate when relayed to the police, and which had been so for five months, constituted denial of due process of law and that the evidence seized subsequent to such an arrest must be suppressed. The court said, "(T)hat this type of infringement of the rights of the defendant, perpetrated primarily with the assistance of a mindless automation controlled by the government, cannot be tolerated."

Essentially, the centralized FBI computer system forces member-states to relinquish control of information on their residents. Once "hooked up" to the data bank, the state's information will become available to the planned 45,000 computer terminals which could have access to an almost unlimited number of files. Moreover, the NCIC allows access to

data by federally insured banks, private employers with defense or other federal contracts, some federal agencies outside law enforcement, many state agencies and private employers with state contracts.

The FBI professes to have strict safeguards and internal controls. Yet, the NCIC is only as strong as its weakest link. Can citizens trust in the system's integrity on the basis of the bureau's self-policing claims when control of access is really governed by *whoever operates the terminals* located in each state? States are not legally bound to follow NCIC regulations, and most states do not have local laws governing access to each computer files.

Paper trippers who use names with no outstanding warrants against them are safe from the FBI's computerized NCIC, the bureau admits. In fact, the law does not specifically prohibit the creation of a different identity, although the methods of constructing an alternate identity often are illegal. It is against federal law to falsely claim U.S. citizenship or falsely apply for a passport, visa, or federally insured loan. Yet, fear of committing purjury may not deter a true "paper person" from obtaining America's bureaucratic staple — the birth certificate — which provides the foundation for building an alternate identity.

"In times past, privacy has seemed both plentiful and indestructible, and its value has been largely ignored. Now we are losing it and once lost, it may never be regained," says former Attorney General Ramsay Clark. As many of the government's 858 "acknowledged" computer systems accumulate more data in *secret* files, citizens are becoming increasingly concerned about what former President Ford termed "the abuses of the Wired Society." However, the protection of America's privacy — the restraint of federal power to investigate citizens and violate their rights through data collection — has a price tag of an estimated $900 million just to alter current systems, according to a Ford Administration budgetary analysis. And, unfortunately, cost is often a major deterrent to action.

BIG BROTHER HAS YOUR FILES

The government can help you protect your privacy.

Selected U.S. Government Publications will send you the valuable directory, *Protecting Your Right To Privacy (Digest of Systems of Records, Agency Rules, Research Aids),* for the price of $5. This directory enables the individual to take full advantage of legislated safeguards against invasion of privacy by the federal bureaucracy.

Under the Privacy Act of 1974, "you have the right to find out what information is kept on you and who else has access to that information, to get a copy of records, to have errors corrected, and to approve certain disclosures of your records," Selected U.S. Government Publications stated.

The directory lists the names of all the various record systems maintained by federal agencies, describing the type of records each particular system keeps on individuals. This publication provides the address to use to obtain copies of your records. It also explains what information you must submit in your request.

The directory (listed as 58E in Volume 5, Number 5, E of Selected U.S. Government Publications) is available from the Public Documents Distribution Center, Pueblo, CO 81009.

For information on other government books, subscribe to U.S. Government Publications. The address is Assistant Public Printer (Superintendent of Documents), U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Obtaining your file from the FBI, or any other agency, is not always an easy task, despite the access provided by the Freedom of Information Act. The bureau does not readily share its enormous accumulation with a mere individual. Under the FOIA, the FBI can withhold information "in the interest of national defense" or to prevent disclosure of an informant's identity and/or law enforcement's investigative techniques. Another exemption, resulting in much "missing" material in FBI dossiers, allows the bureau to retain information "relating solely to the personnel rules and practices of an agency" and to forbid disclosure of data "which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

A person can appeal the denial of an FOIA request to the office of the Attorney General. If the appeal is denied, the individual has the option of taking the matter to federal court. However, these procedures take *time.* The FBI says it receives between 75 and 100 FOIA requests daily. This is a good excuse for delay and discouragement tactics which currently are making people wait for months for answers to their requests. The bureau reports a backlog of at least 5000 requests; approximately 1200 others are still at some stage of processing.

An individual's request for his records could *begin* a file, if there was none originally. Requests should be addressed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C. 20535, Attn: Freedom of Information Unit.

KNOW THYSELF

"How do I get to see my ever growing federal files," asks a prisoner in Joliet, Illinois. An inmate who is interested in the quantity and validity of information kept on him could search for data in various places, responds the National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice. Of course, a prisoner would have a file with the FBI's National Criminal Information Center as well as with the Bureau of Prisons, the State Board of Corrections and the prison's staff psychiatrist. In addition, the FBI would send data to TECS (Treasury Enforcement Communications System), a computer system based in San Diego, California. TECS shares information with IRS Intelligence, Interpol, the Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Now, how do you gain access to these files? . . . Use the Freedom of Information Act! Decide on *WHAT* it is you want to request. Then, send a letter to the *APPROPRIATE* agency, stating clearly that you are making a request under the FOIA. Describe the information you are seeking. Be sure to indicate the period of time you want the information to cover (for example, "1970 through 1976, inclusive"). You should include a request for an estimate of costs. Most agencies charge about 10 cents per page. Some require a small fee for file searches.

You should keep a copy of all correspondence in case an appeal is necessary. Include your name, birthplace and date of birth on your request. You also may include a notarized affidavit of identity. (This is general procedure for the FBI and CIA.)

An agency has 10 working days in which to respond. However, a response may be a delay tactic, stating that another agency must be contacted or that a request does not properly describe the materials. Please understand that certain bureaucrats may have problems with reading; so, be as specific as possible. Also, if an agency says it has to ask permission of another department or that the material sought is exempt from disclosure, go to your local library and check the sections of the FOIA cited by the agency.

Another obstacle is the "take a number" treatment (which has no basis in law). If you receive a refusal or no response at all, write a letter of appeal. (You can simply say, "I am appealing your decision.") You will receive one of three basic replies: 1) the earlier decision is upheld; 2) the earlier decision is completely reversed; or 3) the earlier decision is partially upheld and partially reversed. You may get part of the files or nothing at all. If your appeal is refused, you may go to court for the records. This is not as hopeless a task as it may seem. The judge may decide in your favor after examining the files.

Moreover, the FOIA requires an agency to include with its refusal a *description of the documents which are being withheld.* This can be quite informative.

A helpful booket on FOIA procedure is available for a small fee covering printing costs from the Church of Scientology, 1551 N. La Brea Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028; ask for *HOW TO GET YOUR FILES UNDER THE FOIA.* The organization also may be able to help you with FOIA problems.

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration's new guidelines for handling criminal history records (effective December, 1977) prohibit police from replying to reporters' routine requests for background information about an individual accused of a crime. This rule includes data on criminal records of cases no longer pending. Any information which can be released must be as complete and accurate as possible, according to these regulations, for all FBI, state and local law enforcement records maintained with money received directly or indirectly from the LEAA. Another example of policy change is that telephone companies can no longer find out whether prospective employees have criminal records. However, state legislatures can "modify" interpretations of the guidelines in particular cases on the basis of the public's "right to know."

California had accumulated at least 5.2 million criminal records on file before it instituted its "purge program." About 2.1 million files were marked for destruction to prevent "improper use of records by unscrupulous and unauthorized persons." Officials say they want to protect the privacy rights of persons no longer connected with criminal activities, yet still pursue "the serious criminal, the professional." The new program functions under these guidelines:

1) Records of misdemeanor convictions and arrests for offenses for which a prior conviction was a felony, possible felonies, or felonies are retained seven years.

2) Files of misdemeanor arrests not resulting in conviction ("detention only") are kept five years.

3) Records which are not retained include public arrests, violations of local ordinances and minor traffic offenses.

The Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU), an unofficial network of police intelligence officers, claims to limit its activities to the exchange of information on organized crime. However, LEIU members, including more than 200 police departments in the U.S. and Canada, are using computers to create data banks which house sensitive information on millions of American citizens. Reports of exchanges of undercover agents and LEIU network checks on job applications continue to surface.

Morever, local police, in and out of LEIU, are receiving millions of dollars in federal funds to purchase computer systems and surveillance equipment. An illustration of one such snoop squad is the Orange County, California, Intelligence Unit, which disbanded after refusing to allow a local review of its intelligence files. The unit received $360,000 in federal funds for necessary equipment. The squad armed itself with ". . .cameras, scopes, listening devices, a camper, a truck, this type of thing. Very sophisticated . . . like the superscopes they had during Vietnam (for night surveillance) . . . we bought some smaller ones and then bought some listening devices," says Keith Concannon of the Orange County Criminal Justice Council. The problem with local police and this type of "Agent 007" self-image is the insertion of "junk information," including subjective value judgments and non-organized crime information, into the vast computer networks.

The LEAA (federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) has asked all states to submit plans for compliance with federal rules for updating "rap sheets" and making them available only to "authorized" people. California's Governor, Jerry Brown, Jr., says the state will need $57 million to do the job, an amount simply not available. The central office in Sacramento has about 5.5 million rap sheets now on file, and is in the process of throwing out about half of them, those of dead people or of persons who have not committed a crime in many years. Deputy Attorney General Mike Franchetti, says that California is already more in compliance than any other state, and that the goal is to computerize all the files. At present most haven't been. . .

We mention this story only to remind paper trippers that despite loud noises from Washington about closing off the roads to alternate identification, progress will be slow, piecemeal, and — no doubt — ineffective. The bureaucrats who want to be able to create instant dossiers on any living, or dead, American simply haven't got the notion through their heads that there are more reasons than criminal for individuals' seeking new ID. The only concern expressed by the Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification has been for criminal applications, or the assumption that only criminals have need of other identities. EDEN UNDERGROUND regards alternate identity as an integral part of personal freedom. It is not the function of "government" to tell us who we are, or who we might be. We subscribe to the old Common Law concept that a person may call himself by any name he chooses, so long as his intent is not to defraud. In the pursuit of freedom, then, we intend to continue our efforts in helping people find new ways to disappear, start over under new names, and thus minimize the ultimate object of Big Brother's interest in our identities, namely, control over individual lives.

BIG BROTHER GROWS STRONGER

The super-secret National Security Agency has grown to be the Big Brother of all U.S. intelligence-gathering agencies, according to the November 26 issue of *Washington Watch.*

The NSA gathers foreign intelligence through recording and analyzing radio and other electronic signals. NSA's Director Lt. General Lew Allen Jr., told a congressional committee that the agency has two objectives: "One is that of protecting U.S. communications from foreign exploitation — this is our communications security (COMSEC) mission. Our other mission is to exploit foreign communications in order to provide information to our own government — this is called our signals intelligence (SIGNET) mission."

Based in its Fort Meade, Maryland, complex, NSA accomplishes its missions with the aid of such modern electronic marvels as earth satellites, spy ships, surveillance planes, ground-based listening posts and, most importantly, computers.

NSA's computers are capable of automatically monitoring telephone circuits, cable lines, microwave transmissions, high-speed radio typewriters and international corporations' computer data, *Washington Watch* reported. The agency's computers are programmed to react to trigger words or phrases which indicate the message might be of interest to intelligence or law enforcement officials, the newsletter said.

The computers automatically record a suspicious conversation and print a transcript of the message as well as assemble dossiers on the persons involved. In a few hours, a complete file is ready to be sent to the White House or Pentagon, if the conversation is deemed dangerous; and the participants' names are added to a "select list" of Americans who are considered potentially dangerous to national security.

What authority supports these NSA practices? As the agency has no legal charter (unlike the CIA), it functions solely on a 1952 Presidential directive. However, all aspects of the NSA are so secretive that its ethical boundaries are unclear.

"No statute establishes the NSA or defines the permissible scope of its responsibilities. . . Furthermore, (the Presidential) directives fail to define precisely what constitutes 'technical and intelligence information which NSA is authorized to collect.' " Senator Frank Church told a Senate Committee.

However, citizens can discover the agency's bureaucratic boundaries, or lack of them. With an annual budget of approximately $1.25 billion, the NSA employs a work force of 20,000 government employees, augmented by up to 80,000 military officers and enlisted men, *Washington Watch* stated. Located within the Department of Defense, the agency is not actually part of the military. Yet, it utilizes military personnel and is headed by a military officer.

Despite a military intelligence function traditionally aimed toward the Soviet Bloc, a fear exists that the NSA is focusing too much attention on American citizens.

The NSA scored spectacular data-gathering successes during World War II, Vietnam's Tet Offensive and the 1972 SALT talks. However, its concentration on Americans who politically opposed the Administration's Vietnam policy has led to Congressional investigation. The NSA's Project Minaret used electronic technology to monitor dissidents on "watchlists" provided by the FBI, CIA, and Secret Service, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and the DIA.

Also, Project Shamrock, in operation for 30 years, included the NSA's DAILY inspection of overseas cables at ITT and RCA offices.

The agency's potential for abuse is a subject of concern for many. The ACLU maintains that NSA surveillance should require a court order based upon probable cause, (under a broadly interpreted Constitutional prohibition of "illegal searches and seizures").

However, current law applies only to "wire, cable or the like connection." The monitoring of microwave frequencies (including long distance telephone and telegraph transmissions) and radio broadcasts may not be illegal.

Yet, the NSA's present ability to bug conversations from stations in mobile vans disguised as delivery trucks and its predicted future ability to directly monitor and transcribe brain waves produce Orwellian paranoia.

As Senator Church said in regard to an unrestrained future, "...no American would have any privacy left, such is the capability to monitor everything — telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter... I know the capacity that is there to make tyranny total in America."

BIG BROTHER'S BORDER WATCH

A Burroughs 7700 computer, linked from its headquarters in San Diego, California, to 670 terminals across the country, is bringing efficiency to customs law enforcement, according to a Copley News Service story. TECS (Treasury Enforcement Communications System) makes information on suspect vehicles and individuals available to anyone hooked up to the computer. Leased telephone lines link the TECS computer headquarters to terminals on the Mexican border, the Canadian border, land border stations and airports.

Besides customs, other agencies utilizing the system include the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; IRS Inspection Service; IRS Intelligence Division; Drug Enforcement Administration and Interpol, Washington. The TECS data bank contains 600,000 names, including aliases, and 200,000 license plate numbers. It has access to the FBI National Crime Information Center's records on wanted persons, vehicles, license plates, articles, guns, securities, boats and criminal history data. TECS helped intercept 446 smugglers and 643 felony fugitives in 1975; and the system's ability is increasing.

BIG BROTHER NO. 13

The National Security Agency has promoted feelings of insecurity.

The NSA maintained files on some 75,000 American citizens and intercepted millions of telephone calls and telegrams to and from the United States, according to a Senate intelligence committee staff report.

The files contained information "on many prominent Americans in business, the performing arts, and politics, including members of Congress." The entries were compiled to aid the agency's "legitimate foreign intelligence mission," not "for any sinister reason," the 50-page study said.

The files were destroyed in 1974, and the NSA no longer inspects the overseas communications of U.S. citizens, the report stated.

However, the report added that the NSA still intercepts international communications through its "vacuum cleaner" style of eavesdropping.

Also, the NSA participated in at least eight break-ins while investigating possible security leaks.

Moreover, "for at least 13 years, one or more employees of the CIA worked full-time in these files, retrieving information for the CIA without any supervision from NSA," the report stated.

At a time when the CIA was involved in unlawful domestic activities aimed at citizens, the danger of maintaining such files became clear, according to the report, one of 16 supplementary volumes in support of the committee's report on domestic spying.

NSA's activities from 1945 to 1975 marked "the largest governmental interception program affecting Americans, dwarfing the CIA's mail opening program by comparison, the report stated.

JUSTICE DEPT. USES 'PAPER TRIP'

The federal government has provided more than 2000 witnesses — most of them linked to organized crime, especially the Mafia — with new identities.

The Justice Department's Marshals Service operates a secret "Witness Security Program" created to protect the lives of government witnesses threatened by mob retaliation. The program began in 1970 and now has an annual budget over $20 million. Protected witnesses are given new identities with clean records, relocated to unsuspecting communities and given temporary living expenses.

"A witness is in the program as long as it's necessary for his security and well-being. This is normally for life," according to Frank Vandegrift, chief of the Marshals Service's field operations.

However, the complete cooperation of the witness' immediate family is necessary for a successful change of identity, stated Gerald Shur, chief of intelligence and special services for the Justice Department's crime section.

A relocated family's ties to relatives and friends can create security problems. For survival, family members must withhold new names and addresses from their loved ones.

However, the relocated family can remain in contact with relatives. The Marshals Service will forward mail security so its recipients cannot discover its point of origin.

If the relocated family must return briefly to their old hometown because of a relative's death or illness, the Marshals Service will provide protection. However, continued secrecy, not to mention the witness' life, depends on exact compliance with instructions, Shur stated.

One man returned to his old neighborhood for a funeral. "We specifically told him not to go to his old house," Shur said. "But he did. When he turned the doorknob, the door blew up in his face and he was killed."

A witness and his family can be whisked under the program's protection "in a few minutes if it's that critical," Vandegrift said. Federal marshals guard the family as they work with federal officials to settle the details of their future.

The Marshals Service helps the family choose a city where the witness is neither known nor likely to be recognized. The program aids in the selection of a house or an apartment, arranges for furniture to be moved secretly, provides new Social Security cards, and transfers medical and school records.

School records are sent to an intermediary school. They are copied verbatim and forwarded to the family under the name of the intermediary school and the new name of the child. The child's real name and original school are never revealed, Shur explained.

The Marshals Service also helps the witness find a job. This is sometimes difficult because many witnesses have never held 'legitimate' jobs, Shur said.

A drastic cut in salary and the absence of credit history can make the transition difficult, Shur said. "Some of the guys may have been making $40,000 or $50,000 a year illegitimately. Naturally, they're not too happy about what they are able to earn legitimately," he said.

A study by the General Accounting Office now reveals that 22.3 percent of those in the program are arrested within two years. And more than 30 percent of those arrests are for violent crimes, including murder.

However, the program's "appeal" may influence more gangsters at higher levels in organized crime to testify for the government.

PAPER TRIPPING

Paper Tripping will cover all the different methods for changing your identity, from the most basic to the most sophisticated. Since in some instances you may be violating the law by "adopting" another name, we will also indicate areas of possible trouble. We also suggest you check with a local attorney regarding this.

We have observed that MOST people who adopt new identities use them in order to enhance their personal privacy and/or cut themselves off from a "past" whose records condemn them to less-than-equal opportunities. Some practicing criminals undoubtedly employ alternate identities in their work, and they will perhaps benefit from this discussion also. We hasten to point out, however, that *THE PAPER TRIP II* is not intended in any way to foster or encourage the growth of "crime." It has always been our view that criminals are going to go about their business whether or not we publish books on alternate ID.

The basic purpose of *THE PAPER TRIP II* is to show non-criminals how they, too, can elude and evade the hidden surveillance maintained by record-keeping computers and thereby maximize their personal privacy and freedom. Since there has never been any constructive work done in this vital area, *THE PAPER TRIP II* will attempt to explore new identity to the fullest, and for the full benefit of the ordinary person who wishes to utilize its findings.

Let us begin, then, with the simplest and most direct way to change your name.

THE ALIASES

Aliases are what we might term "unofficial" names. They are informal names that a person uses in his daily life, while retaining his original, legal name for his records and official business. They resemble "stage names," or "nomes-de-plume" (pen names) that many entertainers and artists use in their work. Your "public" may know you as "Johnny Cool," but your driver's license says you are "Ignacz Vizirgianakis."

It's perfectly legal to adopt an alias, so long as you do not intend to deceive or defraud anyone by using it. In effect, you can call yourself by any name you choose, but unless you go to the trouble of having your records changed over to the new name, it will remain only an alias, an "AKA" ("also known as" in police jargon). It could prove to be embarrassing or positively detrimental in certain social situations, should the question of who you really are be raised. An alias, at least for non-entertainers and non-artists, still retains the aura of a device used only by fugitives and gangsters and other underground low-life.

Ordinary users of aliases would probably utilize them best in a "situational" context. Rather than passing themselves off publicly, they could use their aliases privately, as in ordering merchandise by mail, or setting up their subscriptions, telephone and utility accounts. If you do not set out to defraud those to whom you give your alias, or "fictitious name," they could really care less. Pay your bills and they will always be happy.

In 1980, the New York State Court of Appeals held that a person is entitled to use more than one name as long as he or she doesn't use a name for fraudulent purposes. The case involved a man who adopted a second name in order to hide his earnings on a second job from his wife. He obtained a driver's permit and opened a checking account in the new name, but was later charged and convicted of possession of a forged driver's permit. The Court of Appeals, however, held that there was no forgery since he did not "simulate, alter, erase or obliterate someone else's signature. Instead," the court said, "in handwriting that was undisguised, he merely used his adopted name, as a Samuel Clemens may have used the name Mark Twain. . ."

Using aliases in this manner is also a good way to trace the handling of your records in the commercial part of society. If the name you use for your "unlisted" telephone number starts popping up on mail from insurance companies, credit card companies, or department stores, you can readily determine just how much privacy you really have. Are you listening, Ma Bell?

Taking your alias one step further, you may want to obtain some "additional ID." If the ID is passable you might easily slip into a new identity before you know it. The only rub comes when you are questioned by officers of the law. The possession of fake ID alone is enough invitation for them to begin asking many more questions than you may care to answer. Most police can quickly spot both fake ID and those who would normally carry it. Because *most* of the fake ID available on the open market is *very bad*, we don't seriously suggest you use it.

A more sophisticated way to "legitimize" your alias is to obtain receipts, letters, and other "soft" records in your new name, and to carry some of these with you as your ID. Even though you wouldn't have a driver's license or some other official ID, you could well get out of a bind simply by having something in your possession with your "name" (alias) on it.

One tripper, "Brother Chuck," offers this superb method of hardening an alias:

"Go to a couple of banks or savings and loans, and open trust accounts for your 'nephew.' Specify that only his name is to appear on the passbook and/or savings card. These items are valid and acceptable ID. The only place where the true identity of the person who opened the account would be found is in the bank's or savings and loan's records. When stopped and harassed, or when living anonymously, these pieces of ID serve to create the impression of respectability and legitimacy. Savings and loans are the best bet because they often issue plastic ID cards instead of savings books, and they put only one name on the card."

We would add that you will undoubtedly be asked for the Social Security number of your "nephew."

Using an alias is a lightweight method of changing identity. Your basic records will continue to show your original name, and many occasions will arise when you may have to explain the use of another name. If your objective is complete privacy, or anonymity, this is exactly what you *don't* want. If you want to drive, cash checks, open credit accounts, and apply for employment, your use of an alias could very well get in the way. It's not the most entertaining thing to have someone begin asking who you really are.



SOURCES OF FAKE ID AND RELATED ITEMS

There are about 10 mail order firms offering fake ID, ranging from birth, marriage, and baptismal certificates, to personal ID cards with a wide variety of "statuses." Advertising by these firms can be found in the weekly tabloids like *Midnight* and *The National Enquirer*, and in various music-oriented magazines like *Circus* and *Creem*. Some also advertise in *Mechanix Illustrated* and *Popular Mechanics*.

We should advise you that virtually all the fake ID produced by these firms is of very poor quality. If their sales brochures resemble mimeographing from the PTA, you can imagine what their ID looks like. We would not feel confident using ANY of the ID they currently offer. As one of their favorite tag lines goes, "For amusement purposes only." What more can we add?

Some of these outfits also advertise so-called "State ID cards." This phrase, as used by the ID firms, is completely misleading and false. The cards offered are simply personal ID cards with state names across the top, hardly "official" as the ads claim. Ordinary clerks accustomed to checking customers' ID can spot these phonies *instantly*. Most states now have their own (legal) State ID Cards, which usually resemble their drivers licenses in color and format.

One mail order firm goes so far as to suggest that their ID cards "resemble your own state's driver's license." We have dissected their cards and found them to be of very low quality with *glued-on* photos. No state that we know of glues the photos of drivers on their licenses. Neither do any states use a Xerox color copier to create the background for the personal data section of their licenses. These would-be "counterfeits" are apparently so bad that not even the U.S. Postal Inspectors are interested. . .

Two of the *very finest* birth certificate forms used to be sold by a mail order firm in the Midwest. They produced a most convincing CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH and a DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH. We don't know why they ceased doing business, but we have taken the liberty of reproducing samples of these blank forms in the chapter "Birth Certificates." Check them out.

To improve the appearance of fake ID you should consider the use of seals, both the stick-on kind and the embossing kind. Stick-ons can be purchased at most good stationery stores in several sizes and colors (gold, silver, blue and red). A common variety is made by Dennison and are called "Notarial Seals." These can be used "as-is," or can be embossed with an impressioning type seal, like those used by colleges, corporations, and the passport office. When a seal is embossed, it's not too readable anyway, so many ready-made seals could be used without anyone's suspecting. We have more on this subject, and suggestions on how to "put it all together" in the chapter on Birth Certificates.

Eden Press now offers ID by MAIL, a complete guide to all the ID firms and their various products. Everything from "drivers licenses," state ID cards, student/employee ID, birth certificates, badges, press cards, memberships and diplomas is included. A special feature is an up-to-date section on ID machines, with a list of manufacturers. Price is $19.95.

Notary seals can also be made by most seal makers, although you may find them reluctant to make you one if you are not actually a notary. A way around this would be for you to order a notary seal made from "out-of-state," not a bust anywhere we know of. Notary seals are also made in rubber stamp form in some states, and these can be duplicated by virtually any outfit that makes rubber stamps. Merely give them a stamped sample of the seal, and they can reproduce it. If you really want to get into the notary scene, write the National Notary Association, 23012 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364, for free details on how you can "participate" in becoming a better notary public.

Using rubber stamps on various parts of your fake ID can also help overcome defects in appearance and design. Phrases like, "File Number," "Certified Copy," "Verified," "Registered," "Recorded" and "Authorized By," can produce impressive results, and prevent certain questions from being asked. Use inks in "official" colors like green and purple. Again, we refer you to the chapter on birth certificates for more helpful ideas and inspiration.

If you would like to carry some "heavy" ID in the form of police badges, insignia, ID cards, and related items, we have located three companies that would like to send you their sales brochures and catalogs. Even though they label their stuff "confidential" and "official," you should have no problem ordering anything you need to substantiate your ID. Be prepared to play the part, however. Take your choice:

Police Equipment Company
7471 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046

International Police Equipment Company
806 South Robertson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(They also offer interesting "tools of the trade.")

Irvine & Jachens, Inc.
6700 Mission Street
Daly City, CA 94014
(High quality)

Most community colleges provide ID with little or no back-up ID required. Just register for classes. Attendance is optional, we suppose.

If you want to spend $25 or so for a physical exam, you can get a "Student Pilot Certificate" and a "Medical Certificate 3rd Class" without any ID whatever. You'll be getting some impressive pieces of paper with whatever name you choose suitably placed thereon. Who would doubt a pilot. . .?

Should you get a call to the ministry and choose to be a sky pilot instead, you will want to obtain any and all of the many different forms offered by the many various mail order churches. They have full lines of certificates, degrees, and ID items to enable you to become any kind of minister you want. We don't need to toot their horns too loud, as they are already doing great stuff in helping people beat federal, state, and local taxes, thanks to their recognized tax-exempt statuses. They're willing to share this blessing with you, also. Check for their ads in the classified sections of *The National Enquirer, The Star* and *Midnight*.

STOLEN ID

Almost all stolen ID is used to steal something else, usually money. Check artists and others operating fast games are the people who use stolen ID to present new identities. Stolen ID is quite obviously "hot," and can never be considered suitable for disappearing and long-term paper tripping. The person whose ID got ripped off will almost immediately apply for duplicates, and will be very interested in seeing that his records remain his alone. We consider stolen ID definitely beyond the pale of consideration for sound paper tripping. Strictly a rip trip.

Another form of "stealing," however, might be worth considering in certain limited circumstances. Let's say there's a very quiet "Percival Peachblossom" who's never been in trouble with the law, has an ordinary job, and has never been more than 150 miles away from home in Hog Wallow, Iowa. One day someone requests a certified copy of his birth certificate, without his knowledge, of course. The recipient of the birth certificate could easily obtain a driver's license in another state, get a "duplicate" Social Security card, and even a U.S. passport without the original Percival's becoming the wiser.

The hitches would appear, however, under these conditions:

1. If the imposter got his driver's license suspended, a check would be made with the Driver's License Register in Washington, tipping off Percy's home state.
2. If the imposter started receiving wages under the usurped SS#, the SS people would catch on by having to record wages from two of the same person.
3. If the original Percival applied for his own passport, he would be made quite aware of the situation when the FBI came knocking.

This form of stolen ID is used for only a relatively short period of time, but might get you by much longer if you are on the move. It could easily adapt itself to a form of "transitional" ID, that is, ID to use until you have the time and chance to develop a better-planned ID. It shouldn't be too hard to locate a likely person to use, especially if you are planning to leave the area. Just look around for the not-too-bright drones who will not be changing their lifestyles for the next 30 years. Good candidates might be doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, and the retarded. Avoid people "on the make," such as salesmen, college students, business proprietors, and public officials. The latter should be used only if you plan to leave that ID with a very bad record, not that they would really need much help. . . .

FORGED ID

Forged ID can be less detectable than stolen ID, if the forgery is done well. With forged ID the basic stock is "official," but the names, dates, and places won't match the records on which the original is based. In circumstances where the ID is subject to close inspection, such as during a stop for a traffic violation, forged ID could cause lots of additional heat. States which use Polaroid and Dek/Electro processes for their driver's licenses (see chapter on driver's licenses for specifics) have made forgeries virtually impossible with easy detection. California and Florida have special laminations under which the state seal is visible by black light — which the cops just happen to have handy. When you realize that most arrests of fugitives and other criminals occur under circumstances not related to their crime, you can appreciate the relatively poor alternative offered by forged ID.

Forging ID is accomplished by changing one or more characteristics of the ID, such as name(s), photos, dates, addresses, or other particulars. This is done by several methods.

Easiest is physically removing the unwanted data by erasing, cutting it out, or covering it over with the substituted data.

COUNTERFEIT ID

Counterfeiting is recreating the entire document with whatever changes, additions, or deletions you desire. Forgery is the syphlitic cousin of counterfeiting. Forgery is "quick and dirty," while counterfeiting is art itself. It is a truism that whatever document can be made can also be counterfeited. There are no unique photo or printing processes, neither are there paper or plastic stocks which cannot be used with similar techniques to produce similar results. The term "counterfeit-proof" usually refers only to the relative unavailability of certain custom-made materials, such as papers, inks, and dyes. Skilled counterfeiters know the ways around these obstacles, and cannot be deterred from reproducing whatever documents they want.

Here's the general method used to counterfeit black-and-white (no color) ID. While we are outlining it here for your reference, it would be best to consult with your printer and/or commercial artist regarding the specific ID you wish to counterfeit. Even though the ID is black-and-white, there is often more than meets the eye, as your printer will point out to you. Here, then, is the basic photo method of counterfeiting:

"Photograph the original under strong direct light, using a good lens and high resolution film, to get a good negative. It's better to use a press camera, as sheet film works well. Make a blow-up print twice the original size and retouch it with china white and India ink. Any typewritten information appearing on the original can be removed by carefully "spotting" (blocking out) the negative or the blown-up print. Next, photograph the blow-up and get a good negative on high resolution film. Now make a printing plate with the second negative the exact size of the original and run a few sheets through the press. Hold the counterfeit and the original over a light table to see if they match. . ."

—from J.S.

A way to add color to your ID, especially the certificate variety, is to have the offset printing laid down on a preprinted (usually lithographed) "blank," with full-color borders, background, etc. The best source of blanks is Goes Lithographing Co., 42 W. 61st St., Chicago, IL 60621. Their telephone number is (312) 684-6700. Many printers and commercial artists are totally unaware such beautiful and impressive forms exist, so you will have to tell them about the Goes forms. Their fine lithographed blanks are widely used for printing stock certificates, diplomas from professional schools, awards, property deeds, charters, city bonds, and state licenses. They can also provide state seals from 13 different states on some of their forms. Goes does not sell directly to the public, so your printer or graphic artist will first have to order the package of samples. You can then select the forms best suited to your needs, and place the order through the printer or artist.

One final note, we have often received inquiries about the Xerox 6500 color copier asking our opinion of its capabilities for reproducing ID and other official documentation, such as travelers checks and currency. Here is what we wrote in Issue #25 of EDEN UNDERGROUND NEWS SERVICE:

I've just done some of my own testing on a Xerox 6500 (color copier), and want to share my findings. First, the best method to locate one of these new machines is to call a local Xerox office for information on where one is available. I would imagine most Xerox offices would have one for demonstration, also. The cost per copy varies from 50¢ to 75¢. My test was to get reproduction of some fine lithography, such as that used on travelers checks, and also of the "safety paper" effect used on regular checks. All colors were tested, from light yellow-gold to the darker greens, blues and purples. Here are my findings:

Reproduction of fine-line lithography is a total failure. The entire character of the original is lost. A fifth grader could spot the fake, it's that poor.

Color tone is no where near the original. Worse, the reproduction has a glossy finish and the build-up of ink during the four passes through the copier is very obvious in the form of "beading" (like tar that has been poured in a line and dried). The Xerox people do have a screen that can be used to reduce the glossiness, but that much more of the image area is lost, too.

The 6500 works best with straight lines and uncomplicated colors. For counterfeiters to consider this machine a shortcut would be a mistake. Nothing can yet beat good litho and proper printing with plates and negs.

TAKING OVER FOR SOMEONE ELSE

We've already mentioned "using" someone else's ID, with the assumption that the person is still living. Carry this one step further, and it becomes a touch safer to wait until the person has died. People are forever getting themselves killed or falling victims to sickness and malpractice. Since age is usually reported in the newspaper accounts of such events; a basic part of your research has already been done for you.

To find out where the person was born, you can pretend to be a close relative, in shock, of course, and call the hospital, morgue, newspaper office, police station, etc., and ask if it was the same Peter Willoughby who was born in Boston, July 17, 1948. Since it would appear to them that you are mistaken, the person at the other end of the line will probably be only too happy to inform you that, no, this Peter Willoughby was born in San Francisco, November 8, 1947.

Now that you know the date and place of birth, you can easily write to the county recorder and obtain P.W.'s birth certificate. Using this in an out-of-state context (where the person died in a state other than the one in which he was born), you will free yourself from any possible cross-referencing. You can use the certified copy of the birth certificate to obtain a new driver's license, state ID card, etc. You can also send in for a "duplicate" Social Security card, and get it within a few weeks.

This method of getting new ID is best for perhaps only a few months to a year. You should be cautious of the possibilities of police records, warrants, judgments, etc. If you are in doubt you could hire a private investigator to find out. The report you would get is usually called a "background check," and is quite common in the trade. Employers use them all the time when considering a deserving person for a position of trust. . .

If you plan to use this ID for an extended length of time, and you obtain and use the person's Social Security card, problems could arise if a claim is made against the account by a survivor. The SS people will wonder if the person has actually died if some employer keeps sending in contributions to his account. This is one of the prime reasons we should consider this form of ID "lightweight" at best. Naturally, if the person never had a SS card, you could quite confidently apply for an original and use it as long as you wished.

The safest way to use "takeover" ID is to use it in a state different from that in which the person was born and died. Since the states are the basic repositories of almost all ID records, rather than any central file, it makes sense to operate in a state in which no records were ever compiled. ALL the federal records, such as Social Security, military, and passport, are initially derived from state records, and will not reflect data which have not originated from the states.

CLASSIC PAPER TRIPPING

Classic paper tripping involves the use of a birth certificate of a person who died in infancy, or at an age before any ID was obtained in his name. Because birth and death records have never, until just recently in various areas, been cross-referenced, you can see that the birth certificate of such a person could easily provide a "clean" basis for a new ID. This method still works in *most* states, but a number of them have made access to their vital records offices almost impossible except for attorneys, private investigators, law enforcement people, and known geneologists. The public is no longer free to "browse" the birth and death records in search of likely paper trip candidates. At this writing we have heard that such is the case in these states:

Arizona, California (populous counties only), Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington State.

Other states will more than likely follow suit by closing off their vital records offices, but there could remain many that will not. By calling your own state's vital records office, you can quickly find this out. Also, many rural areas have a much more relaxed attitude regarding public records, and it may always be possible to do your research there. Big cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York, have made it impossible for a long time simply because of the volume of public requests for copies.

Classic paper tripping will continue to work, and safely, until extensive cross-referencing of birth and death records is achieved. A handful of states have already begun this process, but most will drag their feet unless prompted by federal funds. California is a good example of partial cross-referencing, as it is being done only on a county level, with only the most populous counties (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alameda) leading the movement. The rural counties aren't too concerned. We feel this will be a pattern across the country, as the larger, populous counties, which have the most welfare fraud, etc., seek to close loopholes in their public records.

The best kind of birth certificate for use in the classic paper trip will be that of a person who was born in one state but who died in another. At present we are not aware of any cross-referencing across state lines. The vital records bureaucrats are still quite protective of their own turf and not too anxious to have outside sources telling them what to do with their records. Meanwhile, trippers should take full advantage of such pigheadedness.

Occasionally you will read stories of people who get caught pulling off a "paper trip." In almost *all* instances the person was using the birth certificate of a person who had been born and died in the *same county*. This is very easy pickings for investigators. With our guidelines, and with good research, a proper "paper trip" ID can, and will, serve you very well.

GOVERNMENT RECORD KEEPING

Here are some insights into governmental record keeping operations which reflect directly and indirectly on our general subject of creating new identity.

The *Fraudulent Document Center* is operated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This center, formerly located at Yuma, Arizona, and now at El Paso, Texas, indexes genuine birth and baptismal certificates known to have been used by illegal aliens to document false claims to U.S. citizenship. The filing of these documents is presently a manual operation. The center reports that at least 5500 false applications for U.S. entry are made annually.

Many states have noted that while they cooperate with the Passport Office, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the FBI, they are never informed of the outcome of cases on which they have been consulted. The states are not routinely notified when someone who is apprehended possesses an "improper" birth certificate obtained from their state. Once investigations are in federal hands, they tend to stay there. Bureaucratic jealousy — and laziness.

Vital records offices sometimes keep records of requests for certified copies. Often the same birth record is used several times to establish alternate identities. If records are kept of the certified copy requests *for each record*, the possibility of paper tripping arises, and the matter could be investigated. Many states have kept such records by noting on the back of the certificates the date of each request and number of copies issued. With the use of microfilm, however, this practice is no longer practical and no new system has been developed.

The NCIC computer connects to 86 law enforcement terminals in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Canada. Inquiries about criminals and stolen property can be made from any control terminal throughout the country with a response received in a few seconds. This computer stores 5.6 million items of information in seven categories:

1,700,000 stolen securities
820,000 stolen motor vehicles
790,000 computerized criminal histories (CCH)
640,000 missing persons
160,000 wanted persons
280,000 stolen license plates
12,000 stolen boats

Inquiries for information in one of these categories is meant to assist in the apprehension of criminals who commit crimes in more than one state. But 70 percent of re-arrests are within the *same* state, and depend on non-NCIC files kept and maintained by the states individually.

LEGAL NAME CHANGE

We will now explore alternate ID in a pattern of use not examined, or anticipated, by the FACFI in their 800-page report. Essentially, it is the oldest method known in the English-speaking world, and it is also *completely legal.* Based on Common Law, it is the notion that a person is perfectly free to call himself (herself) by any name desired, so long as there is no intent to deceive or defraud others by so doing. A very simple notion, indeed.

The public has always seemed to regard changing one's name as something done for weird reasons, and somewhat peculiar, even pretentious. Regardless what others may think of it, however, your right to change your name to virtually anything you like, has always been legally recognized. Most states have set up specific patterns of legal procedure for accomplishing this change of name so that both you and others will be "protected." The most basic obligation in changing your name has been merely that you use the new name openly in all transactions and that you not engage in fraud or deceit by so doing.

Here is an overview of this subject taken from Volume 57 of *American Jurisprudence:*

"You have a common law right to change your name by simply adopting a new one, without legal proceedings — unless there is a specific state statute to the contrary. The one universal exception is that you may not change your name for fraudulent purposes.

"You will find that most states do have statutes that tell specifically, with varying degrees of red tape, how to legally adopt a new name. Most states like to know your reasons for wanting a new name; many require you to publish a notice of the change in a newspaper with a general circulation in the county in which you live. State statutes, however, are rarely meant to restrict your common law right; rather, they offer a legal method of making the change a matter of record.

"Although state courts have the right to deny or grant your request after hearing your petition or application, they must use their discretion reasonably. Also, you may appeal the decision. There is a general rule that some substantial reason must exist for the court to refuse your request.

"When the name change is for a minor, many states require the consent of both parents, while others say that only one parent need make the petition. If both parents' consent is necessary and one parent refuses, the court considers the child's welfare in resolving the disagreement. Most often, the father is the objecting party. In such cases, even if the mother has custody, the courts recognize the father's interest in having a minor child carry on the family surname. The courts would probably deny the change unless the father's past conduct appears to have caused forfeiture of his rights.

"The laws concerning name changes for those who are not U.S. citizens are less clear-cut. Federal law allows the courts to decide at the time of an alien's naturalization — if the alien makes a petition — whether or not to allow the change."

We will outline most of the statutory procedures for change of name in all 50 states, and will illustrate a typical pattern by showing how it is done in California. There are two basic routes to take in legal changes of name. They are the **COURT method** and the **USE method.**

The COURT method is more foolproof. You may want to have an attorney file all the forms for you and accompany you to court, but it's also possible to prepare all the forms yourself. Clerks of *most* courts are quite helpful, and will at least tell you all the forms needed and the fees required for filing. They will set up your date for court appearance, and can usually be cajoled into providing other useful bits of information as well.

In court you will be asked a few perfunctory questions about your intent and purpose in changing your name, but the judge will be most interested in determining if the change is for deceitful purposes. If there is no substantial reason why the change should not be approved, you will walk out of the court with a brand new name. No conditions, probation, or strings attached.

In California, as in virtually all the other states, it is also possible to assume a new name by what is called the USE method. No court appearance is required. You just begin using your new name in all transactions and for all records. At the Department of Motor Vehicles you can fill out a form for this purpose and be issued a new driver's license in your new name. This method is analogous to that used by a woman when she assumed (changes to) her husband's name upon marriage. No law in California has ever *required* women to do this, by the way.

To aid unbelieving bureaucrats in accepting that the USE method is perfectly legal, we have prepared a special form you can use. It's called a "Declaration of Legal Change of Name," and a sample copy is reproduced at the end of this chapter. Fill in the blanks appropriately, have it notarized, and take it with you to the places where you want your records changed. The mere existence of a piece of official-looking paper will make it much easier for them to accept your new name and the legitimacy of your request. It is indeed official, and best of all, it works!!

We have a similar form for divorced lady trippers who want to return to their former legal name. A copy of this form is also reproduced at the end of this chapter. It works just the same — it gets results. We have additional forms printed on fine bond paper which we sell for $2 each. Mail your order to us at: EDEN PRESS, Box 8410, Fountain Valley, CA 92728.

Now for the paper trip aspects of all this legal stuff. One of the most important features of public law in the U.S. is that what is recognized as a legal document in one state will also be recognized as legal in all the other states. Marriages, contracts, bills of sale, notes, wills, and vital records, if they are legal in the state where they were made, they are automatically legal in all the others.

What this means for ID, the personal identification documents issued by the individual states, should be very obvious. If you are known as Bill Brown in Texas, you are also Bill Brown in Illinois, New York, Nevada, and so forth. If you change your name to Jim Jones — legally — in Texas, you will also be Jim Jones in Illinois, New York, Nevada, and all the other states besides!

When you get your new driver's license in the name of Jim Jones in Texas, and then go to Ohio to live, you will turn in your Texas license and apply for an Ohio driver's license. So here's the trick: Ohio *will not know* that Jim Jones is not your original name. They will accept the Texas license *on its face,* and issue you an Ohio license showing only "Jim Jones." Ohio will have *nothing* in their records about your name change in Texas. As far as Ohio is concerned you have *always* been Jim Jones.

The way to carry out this new paper trip is to obtain all new ID from the state in which you change your name and then move to the state where you wish to live or operate under your new name. Once in the new state, begin "trading in" your out-of-state, new ID for ID from your new state. The new state will have no reason to believe that you are anyone other than who your old state ID *says* you are.

For some specific information on how the interstate transfer of records works, see the section on driver's licenses. This is the one area where there is some attempt to control issuance of ID, yet there are so many loopholes you can pick and choose your method of disappearing.

COURT METHOD (California)

Here, in outline form, is how you go about changing your name in California, should you decide to go the COURT route. Forms needed are available at any Superior Court Clerk's office.

1. Fill out a petition that states: person petitioning is over 18; place of birth; place of residence; present name; proposed name; reason for the change; father's name and address, if living, otherwise names and addresses of near relatives. The petition is then signed at the end and again on a separate page to "verify" the petition.
2. Fill out an Order to Show Cause, which is actually the hearing date notice.
3. File your papers with the Superior Court Clerk, and set a court date.
4. Arrange publication in a newspaper that carries "legal notices." Your notice will be the officially-stamped Order to Show Cause, and it will have to run once a week for four consecutive weeks. The newspaper will send an Affidavit of Publication to the court.
5. Fill out a Decree Changing Name and take it to court for the judge to sign.
6. Appear in court on the set date, and answer the judge's questions.
7. Send a certified copy of the Decree to the Secretary of State.

GETTING NEW ID

Once you have changed your name by the COURT method, *or* have decided to go the USE route, you will want to get all new ID. Here are the various procedures to follow in order to get the different public and private agencies to change their records (and your ID) to your new name. While this information is based primarily on our California experience, the basic pattern in the other states is about the same, and the federal requirements are the same in all states.

You may not want all agencies to be aware of your new name, and it will be your decision whether or not to notify them of it. We present these outlines for your reference only, and do not imply that you *must* seek out all of them, or indeed, any of them. The details we present will assume that you have followed the COURT method appropriate for your state, and that all requirements have been met. In all cases, except where we tell you differently, the procedures are *the same* if you have also gone by the USE method.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Go to your local office of whatever bureau issues driver's licenses in your state and tell them simply that you have changed your name and want the new name on your driver's license. They will fill out a name change form (as for women when they get married), and mail you your new license. No documents are required (they depend on the "under penalty of perjury" and no charge is usually made. California law states simply that a person cannot use a "false" or "fictitious" name.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Fill out a new SS-5 form (the same used to apply for an original number), and tell them you have changed your name in court. For the USE method, simply tell them you have legitimately assumed a new name in all your affairs. You will *not* be issued a new number.

FEDERAL TAXES

The SS-5 form will automatically be forwarded to the IRS. Just pay your taxes as usual, using your new name and old SS number.

STATE TAXES

Send a letter stating old and new names, and your SS number. File in your new name, and old SS number.

VOTING

When you register you will have to state the name under which you registered last, the residence stated in your last registration, and how your name was changed, whether by USE or by COURT petition.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Change the signature cards on all accounts. Order new checks.

CREDIT CARDS

Notify the companies of your new name and request new cards. To make sure your credit history follows you (assuming it's good) tell them to include the original date of the account along with your new name.

MORTGAGES

Notify the mortgage company of the change. You still gotta pay. . . .

WILLS & INHERITANCES

Nothing changes in these relationships merely because of a name change. You will still get what's coming to you, and your beneficiaries will get theirs. If you have a will, it should be made out in your new name.

PASSPORT

Take your COURT records and apply for either an original passport, or fill out the amendment form if you already have been issued one. The passport you receive will contain only your new name.

NOTE: The Passport Office is *very* sticky with the USE method, however. They expect you to have used your new name for at least *two years* before they will issue you a new passport. When you apply they want you to provide:

1. Two witnesses (or their notarized affidavits) who have known you under your new name during the required time period, and,
2. Public records (ID) like driver's license, tax returns, etc., that show you have used your new name exclusively during the required time period.

WELFARE

Take COURT records to the local office and have them enter the change. You will get checks in your new name. With the USE method, they will probably place your new name in an "AKA" file ("also known as"), but you will get your check issued in the new name.

CAR REGISTRATIONS

The motor vehicle people have a form for this, and will be able to see that your ownership papers reflect your new name.

INSURANCE

Notify the different companies with which you have policies. Their records will be changed, not your rates. . . With life insurance, be sure they are made aware of the change, whether you are the owner or beneficiary. Send notice by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. The insurance companies have enough escape clauses as is, so don't let them slip through here.

POST OFFICE

Have them list both old and new names for your address. Their basic concern is getting mail to the right address, and don't usually care to whom it is addressed.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

We know of no vital records office that will issue you a new birth certificate, even with a COURT-decreed change of name. The most they will do is make an "official attachment" to your original birth certificate, but they will want a certified copy of your decree along with a fee of $3 to $5. In California no attachment can be made if the name change is by the USE method.

Most states have provisions for minor children to have their birth certificates changed if their parents have their names changed, or if one of the parents has died or become "unavailable" and the other obtains a legal name change. The children must usually be born in that state, however.

This is an area of fine-point law, and parents considering such a move would be well advised to consult their own state's department of vital records. Thanks largely to the women's movement, public law is changing in this area and new developments are very likely in the near future. So don't be put off by some stuffy vital records clerk, either. Services like legal aid, or your own attorney could get the answer straighter if you're not satisfied with the answer of some functionary. Ask to see his or her supervisor. If that's no help, write or call the head vital records office in the state capitol. Go to the top! Get results!!

TELEPHONE LISTING

Have them list your new name as an "additional" name. Small extra charge.

SCHOOL RECORDS

Notify all schools of the change and they will mark their records accordingly. This will be useful should employers want to verify courses, grades, etc. You can also petition the school to reissue any diplomas in your new name.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Show them your COURT papers and they will change their files and issue a new (draft) card. If you go by the USE method, they will list you as an "AKA" in their files.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

At the local VA office fill out form 21-4138, and it will be considered by a "review board." Here you will find bureaucracy in its finest flower. . . .

CREDITORS

They will be only too happy to update their records of you. You could change your name every day and they wouldn't care. Pay on time, and they will never care who you are.

OTHER PEOPLE

For anyone else who should be aware of your new name, the best bet is simply to write them to that effect. If they are concerned about you, they will note the change and not bother you about it.

LEGAL NAME CHANGE IN ALL 50 STATES

We have given you a general outline of how a legal change of name can be obtained and applied in California. Even though some small details may not apply in your state, the important thing to realize is that your name *can* be changed — LEGALLY — in all 50 states. They all have set procedures for doing this, and because all the states, except Louisiana, are "Common Law" states, the patterns are similar.

We now present, again in outline form, the *statutory* procedures required in all the 50 states for legal change of name. We do not presume to be a law advisory service, so you will have to follow through on your own with the various clerk's offices, or with your attorney. Our purpose is essentially to point out that the job CAN be done, and done legally. We would also hope to inspire the more timid, but nevertheless, deserving people who should benefit from this not-too-publicized information.

By way of preface to this section, here are two quotes from courts in Massachusetts which, we feel, pretty much express the prevailing legal attitudes toward name changes in the U.S.:

"As to the fact of this parish having used several names in its public proceedings, we know not why corporations may not be known by several names, as well as individuals." (1811)

A joint decision of the Attorney General and the Secretary of State of Massachusetts, dated December 5, 1975, is even more explicit:

"It has always been the law of this Commonwealth that any individual, male or female, has the right to choose and from time to time change his or her name. This right is not contained in any statute or other codified form. Rather it is a common law right which the courts have consistently recognized so long as he or she has no intent to defraud anyone by the use of such name. Although it is common practice for a person wishing to change his or her name to present a Petition for Change of Name to a court and obtain a court order changing his or her name, such a court order is not required by law. A person may change his or her name simply by using another name."

ALABAMA

A petition must be filed in the probate court stating your present name and the new name you want to assume. Though the *Code of Alabama* (Title 13, Section 278) says that this is the only way a person can officially change his name, it also states that a person may adopt as many names as he pleases. In Alabama, changing your name with the intent to defraud is a misdemeanor which carries a $500 fine. As of 1965, though, name changes made with intent to conceal one's identity are no longer considered an offense. For information about carrying on business under an assumed name, see *Code of Alabama*, Title 14, Section 230.

ALASKA

A petition — signed by you and showing your present name, the new name desired and stating your reasons for wanting the change — must be filed in the superior court. The court will then name a newspaper in which notice of the petition and the date of the hearing (set by the court not less than 40 days after filing) will be published once a week for four consecutive weeks before the hearing actually takes place. The court also might decide to require that this same notice be posted in certain communities where the information would be appropriate. Proof that the notice has been published will be required.

If the court sees no reason to object to the change, you may assume your new name on a date fixed by the court; this will be at least 30 days after the change has been granted. Ten days after judgment is made, notice of your new name must be published once in a newspaper decided upon by the court; and proof that this has been accomplished is required. This proof must be filed with the county clerk within 20 days after the judgment.

These laws do not apply if you are taking a name that was once legally your own (such as in divorce proceedings). Information on name changes resulting from annulments or divorces is available in *Alaska Statutes,* Section 09.55.210. Section 09.55.010 says that, except in cases of divorce or marriage, you cannot change your name unless the court finds "sufficient reasons" and considers the change "consistent with the public interest." The address of the superior court is State Capitol Bldg., Pouch U, Juneau, AK 99801.

ARIZONA

You must file a petition in the superior court that states your present name and the name you want to legally adopt. You then must give notice that the petition has been filed, either by publishing the information in a newspaper or by serving the notice directly to any interested party. Once the change is granted, you are not released from any obligations you had under your old name. On the other hand, all property rights and legal actions begun under your former name are still valid.

For a name change involving a minor under 16 years of age, a petition must be filed by the legal guardian. State laws regarding doing business under an assumed name are located under Section 10-504 of the *Arizona Revised Statutes*. A woman who is interested in changing her name after a divorce should see Section 25-319.

ARKANSAS

An application listing your reasons for wanting your name changed must be filed in a circuit court. In Arkansas, it is a felony to falsely swear to any record of birth, death, adoption, marriage or divorce, according to Section 85-519 of the *Arkansas Statutes*.

The state laws regarding doing business under an assumed name are found under Section 70-401 through 70-405 of the *Arkansas Statutes*. Information about name changes resulting from a divorce suit is under Section 34-1216.

CALIFORNIA

When you file your petition in the superior court, a date for your hearing will be set and that date must be published in a newspaper once a week for four weeks. The notice will include the date your case will be heard (not less than four or more than eight weeks after filing) so that any interested persons may appear.

California law says that a person has a common law right to change his name (Chapter 1235 of the *California Codes*); and the state legislation is considered merely a means of pursuing this right. Legal proceedings are actually unnecessary and exist simply to make the change a matter of record. While in some states the court must find a good reason for the change, here, the court will grant you your new name unless there is good reason for it *not* to be allowed. The codes mention only "peculiar circumstances." If a person has actually been using a name other than his original one for 14 years or more before he files a petition, and if he is generally known by that name, the law considers this name just as legal as the one given at birth. State law specifically says that the courts are not to discourage name changes.

A petition for a name change for a minor under 18 years of age must be filed by one of the minor's parents or, if both parents are dead, by a guardian. If there is no guardian, then a near relative or friend must handle the filing. If only one parent files the petition and if the other parent is still living and his or her address is known, then that other parent's address must be given in the petition so that notice of the hearing may be mailed at least 10 days beforehand. On the date of the hearing, the court will consider any objections that have been filed.

The petition must include your present name, the name you want to assume, the reason for the change, where you were born and where you are now living. You must also include the names and addresses of any relatives living in the area.

COLORADO

Your present name, your desired new name and the reason for the change must be stated in a petition filed with either the district, superior or county court. If you are granted the new name, the decision must then be published in a newspaper with general circulation in the county where the petition has been filed. The notice must appear at least three times. If no paper is published in the county, the court will designate a paper to carry the notice. In either case, it must appear within 20 days of the filing.

The address for the District Court of Colorado is 145 U.S. Court House, Denver, CO 80202; telephone (303) 837-3433. For information regarding name changes resulting from a divorce, see Title 1, Article 2, Section 209 of the *Colorado Revised Statutes*.

CONNECTICUT

There is very little information in the state statutes regarding change of name. The deputy court administrator advises any interested persons to consult a lawyer. The procedure is handled through the superior court. For more specific information, write the Deputy Court Administrator, Superior Court, Drawer D, Station A, Hartford, CT 06106. Information regarding doing business under an assumed name is covered in the *Connecticut General Statutes*, Title 17, Section 335. To find out about restoring a maiden name see Title 46, Section 60.

DELAWARE

You need to file your petition with the superior court. You must state the name you currently are known by and the new name you want to assume. Delaware law requires that notice of the petition be published in a newspaper with general circulation in the county where the petition is filed. This must appear once a week for three weeks before the petition is filed; and you are expected to show proof that this has been done.

A minor must have his petition signed by at least one parent or, if both parents are dead, by a legal guardian. If the minor is more than 14 years old, he also must sign the petition. For information on the resumption of a former or maiden name, see Chapter 13, Section 1514, of the *Delaware Code*.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

If you are a resident, a petition with the name you want to assume and the reason for wanting the change must be filed in the United States District Court. Notice that the petition has been filed must appear in a newspaper once a week for three consecutive weeks before your hearing. You will need to show proof that the notice has been published. When the applicant is an infant, the petition must be filed by a parent or guardian or next friend.

Information on doing business under an assumed name is in the *District of Columbia Code Encyclopedia* under Chapter 28, Section 3-401. Name changes resulting from a divorce are covered under Section 16-915.

FLORIDA

Your petition must be filed in the circuit court of the county where you presently are living. It must include the date and place of your birth, your father's name, your mother's maiden name and a statement as to whether or not you have changed your name in the past. You also must list the address of each place you have lived since the time you were born, the names and ages of any minor children, your spouse's name, your occupation, the names of any schools you have graduated from, and whether or not you have ever been convicted of a felony. Other information required on the petition includes a statement of any judgment for money made against you, listing the date, the amount and where the judgment was made. You must state that the petition was not filed for any ulterior or illegal purpose and that your name change will not invade anyone else's property rights.

The names of any minor children you may have can be changed at the same time. However, if only one parent is asking for the name change, the other parent must be notified of the action. The court will want proof that this has been done. Also, laws regarding doing business under an assumed name are covered in the *Florida Statutes Annotated*, Chapter 865, Section 865.09.

GEORGIA

Petitions for name changes are filed in the superior court. A notice, including the reason for the filed petition, must appear in a newspaper once a week for four weeks. This notice will alert any interested persons to appear at the hearing. Your petition must list the reasons for asking for a name change, the new name desired, the name you are presently known by and your address.

Minor children must follow the same procedures but, in addition, need written consent from a parent or parents. If both are dead, or if the child has been abandoned, a guardian handles the filing; and any living parent or parents will receive a copy. If the child lives with an adult that is not his parent, that adult will be served with a copy.

If, on the date of your hearing, no objections are made to your new name, the court will make its final decision. This must happen 30 days after the petition is originally filed. When a minor child is involved, the decision will be made 30 days after the parents or guardian have been notified (60 days if the parents or guardian live outside of the state of Georgia).

Doing business under an assumed name is covered under Title 106-3, Sections 106-301 through 106-304 of the *Georgia Code.* Restoration of a wife's name is covered under Title 30, Section 30-116.

HAWAII

In this state you are required to submit both a petition and a decree. A copy of the decree must appear once in a newspaper with general circulation in the state. The lieutenant governor must sign the decree and then you will have to file it with the Bureau of Conveyances. Publication costs vary with each newspaper. Other expenses include a $5 filing fee and a $2 recording fee.

A petition for a minor must be filed by both parents, by the parent who has custody, or by a legal guardian, and then submitted to the lieutenant governor. Any petition for a name change must include your present name, your date and place of birth, the names of any past or present spouse, where and when your present marriage took place, your parent's names, your children's names — along with where and when they were born, your address, whether or not you are a convicted felon, and your reasons for wanting the name change. You will also be required to state that you don't have any outstanding obligations.

When the petition is for a minor who is 14 years of age or older, then a Consent to Change Name form must also be submitted by the person whose name the minor is adopting.

The laws in this state are very explicit and quite involved. To get every detail, including what size margins the documents must have and how many copies each government office gets, write to the Lieutenant Governor, State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813. Ask for the booklet called "Rules of Procedure Concerning Change of Name." It contains samples of the forms you will either have to complete for yourself or have an attorney prepare for you. In fact, the booklet suggest that you do let an attorney prepare the forms if the name change involves a child under the age of 18.

IDAHO

There are no specific statutes in Idaho governing name changes. We suggest you contact the Secretary of State for details regarding the procedures required.

ILLINOIS

If you have lived in the state for at least six months, you may file a petition in the circuit court. A notice must appear for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation in the county where the petition is filed, with the first insertion appearing at least six months before you actually file.

The petition must state what name you are known by, what name you want to change to, what state you were born in, where you live and how long you have lived there. A spouse may be included in your petition, with his or her consent; and any minor children also may be included, if the court feels that the change is in their own best interest. You also may include adult, unmarried children on the petition.

Information on doing business under an assumed name is in the *Illinois Annotated Statutes,* Chapter 96, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 6a. Information on the resumption of a woman's married name is listed under Chapter 40, Section 17.

INDIANA

There are no specific statues in Indiana governing name changes. We suggest you contact the Secretary of State for details regarding the procedures required.

IOWA

If you are a resident of this state, you may file a petition in the district court specifying why you want to change your name, where and when you were born and the names of any minor children you may have. You are required to give a physical description of yourself, to describe any property you own and to list your present address, along with the addresses of any places you have lived during the last five years.

In order to petition for a name change in Iowa, you must have no civil disabilities and you must be an adult. Minors may not change their names by their own choice. Their surnames may be changed only if the surname of their legal or natural father also has been changed. If you have a minor child, you must say so on your petition and supply all the information for him that you were required to list about yourself. If the child is 14 years or older, his written consent must be included. If you are married, your spouse must join in the petition and give his or her written consent.

There is a $10 fee for the procedure. Your decree will be granted at a time 30 days after the petition is filed. The county clerk will mail you a copy. The recorder's office in every county where you own real property also will receive a copy. You can only change your name once with this procedure in Iowa.

The address of the district court in the state capital is United States District Court, Southern District, East 1st and Walnut Streets, Des Moines, IA 50309; telephone (515) 284-4381. Laws governing the use of an assumed name are in the *Iowa Code Annotated,* Chapter 674, Section 674.1.

KANSAS

If you have lived in Kansas for at least one year, you are eligible to file a petition for a name change with the district court. You will be required to publish a notice that you have filed such a petition in a newspaper with general circulation in the county where the petition was filed. The notice must appear once a week for three weeks. The court also may order you to send notices by certified mail to any interested parties. The petition must state the reason why you want to change your name, along with the new name you want to assume.

The judge will grant you your new name if he believes the petition to be truthful and if he feels that there is good cause. The order goes into effect 41 days after you have filed.

The restoration of a divorced wife's former name is covered in Section 60-1610 of the *Kansas Statutes.*

KENTUCKY

Name changes in this state are handled by the county court. State statutes do not mention a petition but do say that the county clerk keeps an order book in which he will record your original name, age and place of birth. If the request is being made for an infant, the father's or mother's name (if known) must be listed along with the name of the person who is making the motion for the change.

State laws regarding doing business under an assumed name are covered in Section 365.010 of the *Kentucky Revised Statutes.* Section 403.010 has information about restoring a woman's maiden name after a divorce.

LOUISIANA

The procedure in this state is handled by the district court. You must give the court a reason for the name change. There is no specific form to complete; forms are usually filed by an attorney. For more specific information, you should write to the district attorney of the appropriate judicial district. The address in the state capital is Nineteenth Judicial District, East Baton Rouge Parish, 233 St. Ferdiand St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801; telephone (504) 389-3400.

A petitioner must be over 18 years of age or have the written consent of both parents, if living, or of the surviving parent. The judge will then hear the case either in open court or in chambers; the district attorney of the parish where the application is made will be present. The address in the state capital is United States District Court, Federal Bldg., 707 Florida St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801.

Since Louisiana law is not based on common law, there is no common law right to take and use another name. The specific state law discussing name changes begins with Section 13.4751 of the *Louisiana Statutes.*

MAINE

You must go through the probate courts to change your name in this state. According to the *Maine Revised Statutes,* the judge may grant you your new name after whatever the court considers "due notice." The Office of Vital Statistics in Augusta, the state capital, suggests that anyone who wants to change his or her name should contact an attorney. A legal custodian must petition for a minor. The basic fee is $5.

Doing business under an assumed name is covered in Title 31, Section 2, of the *Maine Revised Statutes.* A woman who is interested in changing her name after divorce proceedings should refer to Title 19, Section 752.

MARYLAND

A petition for a name change carries a $15 fee in this state and is handled by the circuit court. The *Annotated Code of Maryland* does not say exactly what information the petition must include. You may make your petition in person or through an attorney. If you are interested in registering as a voter under your new name, you should contact the Supervisor of Elections. The address in the state capital is Arundel Center, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Restoration of a maiden name after a divorce is covered in Article 16, Section 123 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland.*

MASSACHUSETTS

You will need to file your petition in the probate court. You must provide your date of birth and a copy of your birth record. An announcement must be published in a newspaper of your choice, with preference given to a local publication (unless the court decides that there is a good reason not to require you to give notice). The court *may* order publication in a specific paper.

If you have changed your name before, that decree also must be filed — unless the judge can be convinced that the decree cannot be found. The court will request a report from the commissioner of probation before making a decision.

New names (except those resulting from a divorce, a marriage or an adoption) are not legal in this state unless they have been granted by a court. However, Massachusetts' law interprets your freedom to change your name as a very broad right. For example, you will not be asked to state your reasons for requesting the change unless the court suspects that your motives are either dishonest or unlawful.

Doing business under an assumed name is covered in the *Annotated Laws of Massachusetts,* Chapter 110, Sections 4, 5 and 6. A woman interested in changing her name after a divorce should see Chapter 210, Section 12.

MICHIGAN

If you have lived in one of the state's counties for a year or more, you are eligible to file a petition — listing your birthplace and your reasons for requesting a change of name — in the probate court. The court will then set a time and place for a hearing. Notice of the hearing must be given. Anyone with the same name you are requesting, or anyone with a similar name, may appear during the proceedings and object to the change. Your name change also could be denied if the court discovers what it considers to be evil or fraudulent intent.

In the case of a minor, the petition must be signed by both parents or one parent, if the other has died, or by a guardian, if neither are living. If either parent has been declared legally incompetent, the parent's guardian must sign the petition. If the minor is over 16, he must sign the petition in court — even if his name has merely been included on a parent's petition and is not being changed separately. A minor's name may not be included on your petition unless he is your natural or legally adopted child, or unless you have the consent of both his mother and his father or the consent of the surviving parent if one is deceased. Your spouse's name also may be included on your petition. There is a $10 fee.

Doing business under an assumed name is covered in the *Michigan Statutes* in Sections 19.821 through 19.827.

MINNESOTA

If you have lived in the state for at least one year, you may file a petition in the district court. If you have included any minor children and/or a spouse, you must list their names; and, if anyone listed has any interest in land holdings, the property must be described. When you appear in court, your identity must be verified by the testimony of two witnesses.

Both parents of any minor children who are having their names changed will be notified of the pending application unless the court decides this would not be practicable. Your application will be granted if the court finds no intent to mislead or, in the case of a minor child, that the change is not contrary to his best interest.

The use assumed names is covered in Section 333.01 of the *Minnesota Statutes.* Change of name procedure for a divorced woman is found in Section 518.27.

MISSISSIPPI

There are no laws in Mississippi concerning name changes. However, you can contact the Office of the Secretary of State, P.O. Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205; telephone (601) 354-6541.

MISSOURI

A petition listing your present name, the desired name change and your reasons for requesting the change must be filed in the circuit court. Twenty days after you are granted your new name, a notice must be published in a newspaper with general circulation in the county; the notice must reappear at least two more times. (If there is no county newspaper, the notice may appear in one published in St. Louis.) Your request will be granted if the judge feels that another person's interests will not be harmed.

Doing business under an assumed name is covered in the *Missouri Statutes,* Chapter 417, Sections 417.220 and 417.230. Information on a change of name for a divorced wife is available in Chapter 452, Section 452.100.

MONTANA

You must file a petition in the district court. List your present name, the desired name change, the reason for the change, your birthplace and where you presently are living. The court will then set a time and place for your hearing. You will be required to publish this information for four successive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation in the county. If no newspaper is published in the county where you are filing, you must post notices in three public places for the same amount of time. Regardless of which method of notification you use, you must supply the court with proof that it has been done. Any objections which are filed will be considered at your hearing.

If a minor under 18 years of age is petitioning, his request must be signed by one parent or, if both parents are dead, by a guardian. The names and addresses of near relatives also must be given.

The court's address is United States District Court, District of Montana, 316 N. 26th St., Billings, MT 59101; telephone (406) 245-6711.

NEBRASKA

If you have been a resident for at least one year, you may file a petition in the district court stating the new name you want to assume and the reason for requesting the change. Notice of having filed the petition must be published in a county newspaper for 30 days; and you will be required to prove to the court that the notice did appear.

The *Revised Statutes of Nebraska* say that there must be "proper and reasonable" cause for requesting the name change. The address for the United States District Court is the New Post Office Building, Omaha, NE 68102.

NEVADA

You need to file a petition with the district court. State your present name, the name you want to assume and the reasons for requesting the change. You must publish a notice in a county newspaper once a week for three consecutive weeks stating that the petition has been filed and list the desired name change. The court requires proof that this has been done.

If the court feels that there is good reason for granting the name change, and if written objections have not been filed, then you will receive your new name 10 days after the first publication appears. If objections have been filed, the court will hear them on a specific date, granting or refusing your petition at that time. The address for the United States District Court in Nevada is 300 Booth St., Reno, NV 89101.

Information regarding doing business under an assumed name can be found in Section 602.010 of the *Nevada Revised Statutes*. Wives wanting to change their names as a result of divorce suits should see Section 125.130.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Name changes are handled by the probate court in this state. Since there is little specific information in the *Revised Statutes Annotated,* you should write to the registrar of the probate court in the county where you live. No notice is required. Name changes resulting from divorce are discussed in *Revised Statutes Annotated,* Chapter 572, Section 572.16a.

NEW JERSEY

There are no specific forms to complete for a change of name procedure in this state. The action is handled by either the county or the superior courts. Circumstances which could hinder the fulfillment of your request would be unworthy motives, possible fraud against the public, or a choice of a name that is too unusual, too long or ridiculous or too offensive to common decency and good taste.

Once you are granted a new name, you may not use any other name. Any legal proceedings begun under your old name are still valid. The address for the Superior Court of New Jersey is the State House Annex, Trenton, NJ 08625; telephone (609) 292-4801.

NEW MEXICO

An application must be filed in the district court; and notice must be given once a week for two consecutive weeks before filing. The notice must state where and when the application will be filed. Also, you will be asked to show proof that it was published. If the court cannot discover what it considers sufficient reason not to grant the request, you will receive your new name. There is a $2 fee. An applicant must be over 14 years of age.

NEW YORK

If you live in New York City, you should file your petition in the civil court. Otherwise, the procedure is handled by either the county or the supreme courts. The petition must state your present name, the name you want to assume, the reason for the request, your address and the date and place of your birth. Other necessary information includes whether or not you have ever been convicted of a crime or declared bankruptcy and whether you currently are involved in any pending legal judgments or proceedings.

Petitions to change the name of an infant must be filed by either parent, by a guardian or by a next friend. Notice of where the petition is to be filed must be presented to both parents, if living, or to the general guardian, if there is one. If the surname of a parent is changed, any minor child can assume the new surname.

Unless the court finds good reason not to grant the change, you may assume your new name on a date the court will set not less than 30 days after the order for the change has been made. You then must publish notice of the court order one time within 20 days.

NORTH CAROLINA

Your petition must be filed in the superior court. Notice must be published on the courthouse door 10 days before the application is filed. You are required to state your present name, the desired name change, the reasons for the change, the date and place of your birth, your father's name and your mother's maiden name. Also, you need two witnesses who live in the county where you are petitioning to testify to your good character. You must tell the court whether or not you have had a previous name change.

In order to deny the name change, the court must prove that you have fraudulent intentions. Though you may only change your name once, you are allowed to regain the use of your original name by going through the same procedure.

A minor may change his name on his parents' petition or on a separate petition filed by a parent, guardian or next of kin. If the child is 16 years or younger, both parents must agree to the change. If the child is over 16 — and if one parent has abandoned him — only the parent who has custody or supports the minor needs to sign. The parent who has abandoned the child would receive notice of the petition by certified mail; and the court would have the final say in the matter.

Doing business under an assumed name is covered in the *General Statutes of North Carolina,* Chapter 66, Sections 66-68 through 66-71. The subject of name changes for divorced women is discussed in Chapter 50, Section 50-12.

NORTH DAKOTA

If you have lived in one of the state's counties for at least six months, you may file a petition in the district court. Notice must appear in a newspaper circulated in the district at least 30 days before the name change is granted. However, the court may decide that it is not necessary for you to give notice if you are changing only your first name. You must provide a good reason for requesting a change.

OHIO

You may file a petition in the probate court, provided you have lived in one of the state's counties for at least one year. At least 30 days before filing, notice of the application must be published once in a newspaper with general circulation in the county. Later, you must prove to the court that this has been done. The petition must state the desired name change and the reasons for requesting this change. The fee is $4.

Notes following the statutes in the *Ohio Revised Code* say that you may change your name simply by adopting a new name. The courts have stated in past decisions that if you are as well-known by one name as by another, the use of either name is valid. Anyone under 21 years of age must have his petition signed by both parents. Otherwise, notice of the hearing will be served to the parent who has not given consent.

OKLAHOMA

If you have lived in the state for more than 30 days, you may file a petition in the district court. You are required to state your present name, the name you want to assume, the reason for the change, your address and the date and place of your birth. A time, date and place for a hearing will be set; and notice of this hearing must be published in a newspaper for one week. Written

protests may be filed at any time before the hearing is held.

Your petition must state that the name change is not sought for any illegal or fraudulent purposes. If you are a resident of Oklahoma, marriage, divorce or adoption are the only acceptable reasons for name changes. The address for the district court in the state capital is the Federal Courthouse, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

OREGON

Your petition must be filed in the circuit court. Notice, saying that the petition has been filed, must be given once so that any interested persons may protest. Another notice must appear after you have been granted your new name. Once you have proved that this last notice has appeared, you will receive a certificate which makes your new name legal. The fee is $8.50.

If you have minor children, their names are recognized as changed when yours is changed. Their birth certificates will be changed to show their new names.

Name changes are granted in this state as long as there is no reason for the court to believe that such changes would interfere with the public's best interest. Name changes resulting from divorce or annulment are discussed in Section 107.105 of the *Oregon Revised Statutes.*

PENNSYLVANIA

A petition stating the new name you wish to adopt as well as the reason for the change must be filed in the probate court. You also are required to provide the addresses of all the places you have lived during the past five years. The court will set a date for your hearing. A notice announcing this date must appear in two newspapers. The fee is $15.

Unlike most states, it is illegal in Pennsylvania to assume a name other than your own unless you have gone through the appropriate court procedure. If you are married, your spouse's name may be changed on the same petition. If you have any minor children, they automatically adopt your new name.

Information regarding doing business under an assumed name can be found in the *Pennsylvania Statutes* under Title 54, Sections 28.1 through 28.13.

RHODE ISLAND

The probate courts handle name changes. There is very little information on the subject in the *General Laws of Rhode Island.* However, you may address specific questions to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, 75 Davis St., Providence, RI 02908.

The laws concerning the use of an assumed name are found under Title 6, Chapter 1, Sections 1 through 4, in the *General Laws of Rhode Island.* Name changes resulting from divorce proceedings are discussed in Title 5, Chapter 5, Section 17.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The circuit court will accept a petition listing the desired name change, the reasons for the change and the date and place of the applicant's birth. There is a $5 fee. A new name does not affect any pending legal actions. The legal records are simply amended to include the name change. Such a change does not free you from any obligations to heirs, executors or administrators; and it does not cancel out their obligations to you.

SOUTH DAKOTA

If you have lived in one of the counties in this state for six months or more, you may file a petition in the circuit court. You must list your present name, the new name you wish to adopt and your reasons for requesting the change. The court will set a date for the hearing; and notice of the time, place and reason for the hearing must be published once a week for four weeks in a newspaper with general circulation in the county.

Unless the court finds what it considers "substantial reason" for refusing your request, you will be granted your new name. Any legal actions pending at that time will not be affected.

Information on doing business under an assumed name is covered in Chapter 37-11 of the *South Dakota Compiled Laws.* Changes of names resulting from divorce suits are discussed in Chapter 25-4-47.

TENNESSEE

The circuit, probate and county courts all have jurisdiction over these matters. On an application for a name change, you are required to give your reasons for requesting a new name. Your signature on this document must be verified by an affidavit. There is a $1 fee. For more information, you can write to the Secretary of State, 976 Capitol Hill Bldg., Nashville, TN 37219.

TEXAS

An application, filed in the district court, must state your reason for wanting your name changed. If a minor wants to change his name, a guardian or next friend must file the application.

Your new name will not free you from any past legal responsibilities. Yet, it also will not alter any rights to property or legal action under your old name. The address for the deputy clerk of the district court in the state capital is 213 U.S. Court House, Austin, TX 78701; telephone 397-5896. *Vernon's Texas Statutes* provides information on laws regarding business conducted under an assumed name in Article 5924. Changes of names resulting from divorce suits are discussed in Article 5931.

UTAH

If you have been a resident of one of the state's counties for at least one year, you may file a petition in the district court. You will be asked to give a reason for wanting to change your name. You also must state the name you are requesting. The court may order you to publish notice of the change. The *Utah Code* provides information on doing business under an assumed name in Title 42, Section 42-2-5 and 42-2-6.

VERMONT

A petition must be filed in probate court, with notice of the filing appearing for three successive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation in the appropriate county. You will be asked to list your present name, the name you want to adopt, your birthplace, your current address and the names of any minor children, along with their places of birth. After the name change is granted, the town clerk will adjust the minors' birth records. If a child over 14 years of age is included in the petition, he must give his consent before the court. Also, if you are married, your spouse's name must appear on the petition. Whenever a married man adopts a new surname, his wife and children must change their names at the same time. Name changes resulting from divorce cases are discussed in Chapter 15, Section 557 and 558 of the *Vermont Statutes.*

VIRGINIA

A petition, filed in the circuit court, must list your name, the name you want to assume, the reason for the change, the date and place of your birth, your father's name and your mother's maiden name. You also must provide any other names you have legally used in the past. The illegal use of an assumed name is a misdemeanor which can carry a fine of up to $100. A second conviction can mean a 60-day jail sentence.

A guardian or next friend can file a petition for a child whose parents are deceased. The same information must be provided on a minor's petition as on an adult's. More information on laws

governing the use of an assumed or fictitious name is available in the *Code of Virginia* under Title 59, Section 59-169 through 59-176. A woman interested in resuming her maiden name after a divorce should see Title 20, Section 20-121.

WASHINGTON

A petition, stating the reasons for the desired name change, can be filed in the superior court. There is a $32 cash filing fee; and the County Clerk's Office will provide some previously filed cases for you to look at as examples. For more information, write to the clerk in your home county. In the state capital, write to the Thurston County Clerk, 302 County Courthouse, Olympia, WA 98501. Doing business under an assumed name is discussed in, Section 19.08.040 of the *Revised Code of Washington.* Information on changes of name resulting from divorce can be found in Section 26.09.150.

WEST VIRGINIA

If you have lived in one of the state's counties for at least one year, you are qualified to file an application in the circuit court. You must publish notice of where the application will be made in a county newspaper. The application must state the desired new name and the reason for the change. Anyone who disputes the change may appear when the application is filed; the court will hear all objections. Changing your name unlawfully is a misdemeanor in this state. The first conviction carries a fine of up to $100; and the second conviction can mean 60 days in jail. Doing business under an assumed name is discussed in Chapter 47, Sections 47-8-2 through 47-8-5 of the *West Virginia Code.*

WISCONSIN

Any resident of this state may file an application with the circuit or county court. You are required to give notice and then prove to the court that this has been accomplished. In the case of a minor child under 14 years of age, the petition must be filed by both parents (or the surviving parent) or by the legal guardian. The petition is filed by the mother if the child is illegitimate; however, the father must join in the filing unless all his rights have been legally terminated. Also, the birth and marriage records of each applicant are changed to show the new name.

If your profession requires a state license, the law is more stringent. A new first or last name is granted only if it does not put you in unfair competition or mislead the public to your identity. It must not be a detriment in any way to your profession or to the public. Any name change not granted by law is not recognized by the state. Information on name changes resulting from divorce suits is available in Section 6.40 of the *Wisconsin Statutes.*

WYOMING

If you have lived in this state for two years, you may file a petition with the district court. You are required to state your present name, your address, the desired name change and the reasons for this change.



DECLARATION OF LEGAL CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned, declare that the following is true and correct:

I, _____
(name presently used)

born _____
(name on birth certificate)

in _____ County in the State of _____

On the _____ day of _____, _____, DO HEREBY DECLARE
(month) (year)
my intent to change my legal name, and be henceforth exclusively known as

_____
(new name)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all agencies of this State, all agencies of the Federal government, all creditors, and all private persons, groups, businesses, corporation and associations of this legal change of name.

I declare that I am 18 years of age, or older.

I further declare that I have no intention of defrauding any person or escaping any obligation I may presently have by this act.

DATED: _____ _____
(old signature)

_____
(new signature)

READERS NOTE:

This form, and the one on the following page, are available on fine bond paper for $2 per copy, or 3 for $5, from Eden Press, Box 8410, Fountain Valley, CA 92728.

STATE OF _____ }
COUNTY OF _____ } SS

On _____, 19____, before me, _____, a notary public of the State of _____, personally appeared _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument, and acknowledged that he (she) executed the same.

_____
Notary Public in and for said State

My commission expires: _____

DECLARATION RESTORING FORMER LEGAL NAME

I, the undersigned, declare that the following is true and correct:

I, _____ (name presently used), was legally divorced in the State of _____, on _____ (date of decree).

I HEREBY DECLARE my intent to return to my former legal name and be henceforth exclusively known as _____ (former name).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all agencies of this State, all agencies of the Federal government, all creditors and all private persons, groups, businesses, corporations and association of this legal change of name.

DATED: _____

_____
(old signature)

_____
(new signature)

STATE OF _____
} SS
COUNTY OF _____

On _____, 19_____, before me, _____, a notary public of the State of _____, personally appeared _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument, and acknowledged that he (she) executed the same.

_____
Notary Public in and for said State

My commission expires: _____

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Classic paper tripping starts with the acquisition of a legitimate birth certificate in someone else's name. The safest form of this practice is to use the birth certificate of someone who died at an early age and thus never had ID of any other form issued in his name. Here are some details which explain why paper tripping is still a workable method for creating alternate identity.

There are over 7000 local vital records offices in the U.S. authorized to issue certified copies of birth certificates. Most of these offices are located in rural areas, one per county, where the atmosphere is relaxed and access is easy. Only in a few states are birth certificates issued exclusively at the state level. A phone call to your local vital records office will tell you if you live in such a state.

Approximately 10 million certified copies of birth certificates are issued each year, and over 80 percent are processed *by mail.* The name and return address of the requestor are usually the only indications of the requestor's identity. There is no state law that authorizes a registry official to refuse to honor an unsigned request for a birth certificate.

There are no uniform standards for either the form of the birth certificate or for processing requests for certified copies. A request may legally be made for a copy of another person's birth certificate if the requestor is related to the individual or has a "legitimate need" for the document. Some states and Washington, D.C., regard ALL vital records as public documents, a copy of which must be supplied to any interested person.

Under these conditions it becomes easy to acquire a certified copy of the birth certificate of another person. This certificate can then be used to obtain additional ID in the same name as that on the birth certificate. When a tripper assumes the identity of a person born about the same time as himself, but who died in early childhood, his new identity is difficult to detect because almost all birth and death records kept by the states are not cross-referenced. An identity created this way is not likely to be questioned.

To apply for a copy of a birth certificate the paper tripper needs only the name, date and place of birth, and, sometimes, the names of the parents of the deceased person. This information can be obtained either from a death certificate, files of which are still open for viewing in some local vital records offices, or from old newspaper accounts of a person's death. By researching deaths which occurred in states other than the state of birth, the tripper assures himself of becoming untraceable, since there is NO interstate cross-referencing of birth and death records. There are fewer of these names available, but the time taken for this careful research is well worth it, indeed.

In the last few years, however, public officials have decided to close a few doors to paper tripping. Their view has been that most seekers of alternate identification are of the criminal persuasion, and that "public" records need protection from such "abuse." In a manner of speaking, then, paper tripping has come to a fork in the road: two basic patterns of choice are open.

One continues on with the old methods, but in more limited circumstances. The other leads into the many-faceted world of counterfeiting. Let's first see what's happening in the traditional methods of paper tripping.

From time to time we get letters from paper trippers telling us that direct access to county recorders' offices has been "closed" in their area. In every case so far, they have tried the "Trip" in large city areas, such as Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, Detroit, etc. A few letters have convinced us, too, that several states are moving in the direction of total centralization of all birth and death records, with the ensuing cross-referencing and control of issuance of these documents. Arizona, Hawaii, and Washington appear to be in the forefront of this movement.

This need not hinder any serious searcher for a new identity, as at least 98 percent of all U.S. counties are just as free and open as they ever were. California is a good example of present conditions. In Los Angeles and San Francisco counties it is virtually impossible to get past the bureaucrat-clerks *without ID as an attorney or private investigator.* In the other 58 counties paper tripping is made free and easy, with open access to all the public records you want.

Even though the Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification has recommended cross-referencing of birth and death records, it appears to us that this will be done only on a county basis, with stamping "deceased" on birth certificates of those born in other counties left to the discretion and budgetary considerations of the counties affected. We should remember that most COUNTIES in the U.S. are still essentially rural, and not too concerned about the problems of big cities as they relate to alternate identity, i.e., welfare and Medicare fraud, fugitives and smugglers. Our advice, then, to all our paper trip friends is that you not get discouraged because your efforts appear stymied in a particular area. Go to the next county — or state — and try again. Nine times out of 10 you won't believe how easy it is. Just like it says in the book. . .

Florida recently closed all its files to persons other than those having a specific need to obtain their birth certificate, or someone else's, for a legitimate purpose. At this time, over 40 states "restrict" access to their vital statistics files, prohibiting browsing through files except by authorized officials who are seeking a specific birth certificate for a requestor.

Arizona and Washington State have very limited access to their public records. These two states can be considered "closed," unless you can come up with a circumventing plan.

OUR READERS WRITE...

"I have used much of the information from your "Paper Trip" series, and you might say that you saved my life, for I was married to a hopeless alcoholic who was very psychotic and dangerous for many years. When I finally got the courage to divorce him, he tormented me whenever I went, and there was no place I could relocate to get away from him, until I read your books! He had made serious attempts on my life many times, and even though I had him arrested, he was always back out on the street the next day, on bond, to make the same attempt again. I was about to give up on life, but thanks to you, I have now changed my name and am living a very private life, and I feel like I truly have been "reborn." May God be with you and the work you are doing for mankind.

"I might add a tip which you may want to use in future editions, which I learned from experience. The quickest way I found to take on a new identity was to have a friend identify himself as a minister, saying he was starting a new church, and order a supply of Baptismal Certificates from a printing company which advertised in the Yellow Pages. The certificates I used were standard for a Baptist Church ("Father, Son and Holy Spirit"). I typed in the information and had a friend sign the pastor's name. I then placed them in a bread pan in an electric oven, after pouring coffee on both sides. I baked them carefully until they turned a believable shade of brown. I removed them, tore them a bit in the folded places,

and then put plastic over them like I was trying to protect a very old and valuable document! It worked like a charm!! I was not sure of the right way to get a birth certificate, so this was the best way for me to start. I applied for, and received, drivers licenses from three states — Texas, Florida and Arizona. There were no questions asked, except that one clerk asked my mother's and father's name, which, naturally, I had memorized."
—L.L.R.

"I was given your book The Paper Trip back in 1977, and have a few things to pass on, since I have been paper tripping for a few years now.

"One good way to get accustomed to a new identity is to do temporary work. You may only work a day or two, but by the time anyone could become suspicious, you will have moved on. Also a weekend job will get you accustomed to the new name.

"Moving can be a problem, too. Your best bet is to sell everything since movers may remember you, your furniture, or where you moved. If you have to move in a hurry, it can be hard and expensive to move a lot of furniture.

"You can get good IDs at most flea markets and claim that they are company ID cards. You should consider changing your type of work so that you will always find it easy to get a job."
—C.C.

"A note for possible inclusion in future Paper Trip books: You don't really need to know ANYTHING about a person to get a birth certificate. Even if you know only the name and age, you can call the appropriate county registrar and give the person's name and a general idea of when they were born. It is amazing how helpful these people are over the phone. The best thing is to pick a rural county and just say you are that person's attorney, or that you're in charge of an estate in which that person was named, etc. When you mention you are an attorney, the clerks become very accommodating. Then you have a perfect excuse for not knowing the person's mother's maiden name, date of birth, or even place of birth. You can tell them that your "investigators" narrowed it down to a certain area and the clerk will search his records accordingly.

"The key is to pick a rural county, with the county seat in a small town. In the metro areas they're either too busy to be helpful, too suspicious, or both. The rural counties will break every rule they've got if you are convincing enough that you have extenuating reasons for not knowing certain information. It's important to do this OVER THE PHONE. They seem to react much more favorably to telephone requests in the rural counties.

"Another tip: Most obituaries don't give the mother's maiden name or anything close to it. But they often list the maternal GRANDPARENTS as survivors. Nine times out of ten the mother's maiden name is the same last name as that of the maternal grandparents!"
—Anonymous

Here is a sample of how the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder can make it tough, if not impossible for public browsing of "public" records:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR-RECORDER

APPLICATION TO EXAMINE RECORDS - Required by Section 902, State Administrative Code

Proper identification must be presented with this completed form.

DATE: _____

Permission is hereby requested to examine records of _____ (name on record)

Birth _____ (state year(s)), Death _____ (state year(s)), Marriage _____ (state year(s)).

Approximate time required for search _____ hours.

Reason for search (EXPLAIN IN DETAIL): _____

I hereby state that I am beneficially interested in the above designated records and my desire to examine them is not based on any malicious intent nor is it to gratify idle curiosity. (Section 902 State Administrative Code.)

NOTE: A charge of $2.00 per hour or fraction thereof, payable in advance, must be made under Section 10606 of the Health and Safety Code when a deputy recorder assists.

_____ Name of Applicant (PLEASE PRINT)

_____ Name of Organization

_____ . & Street

_____ City

_____ mber

_____ SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

oved

ER

_____ ID Type

ID NUMBER _____

Compare the Los Angeles County request form with this simple form used by a lightly-populated county, also in the State of California, Nevada County:

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OR EXAMINATION OF VITAL RECORD --NEVADA COUNTY

Type of Record ☐ DEATHS ☐ BIRTHS ☐ MARRIAGES ☐ at $2.00/copy

Name of Individual

Date of Event

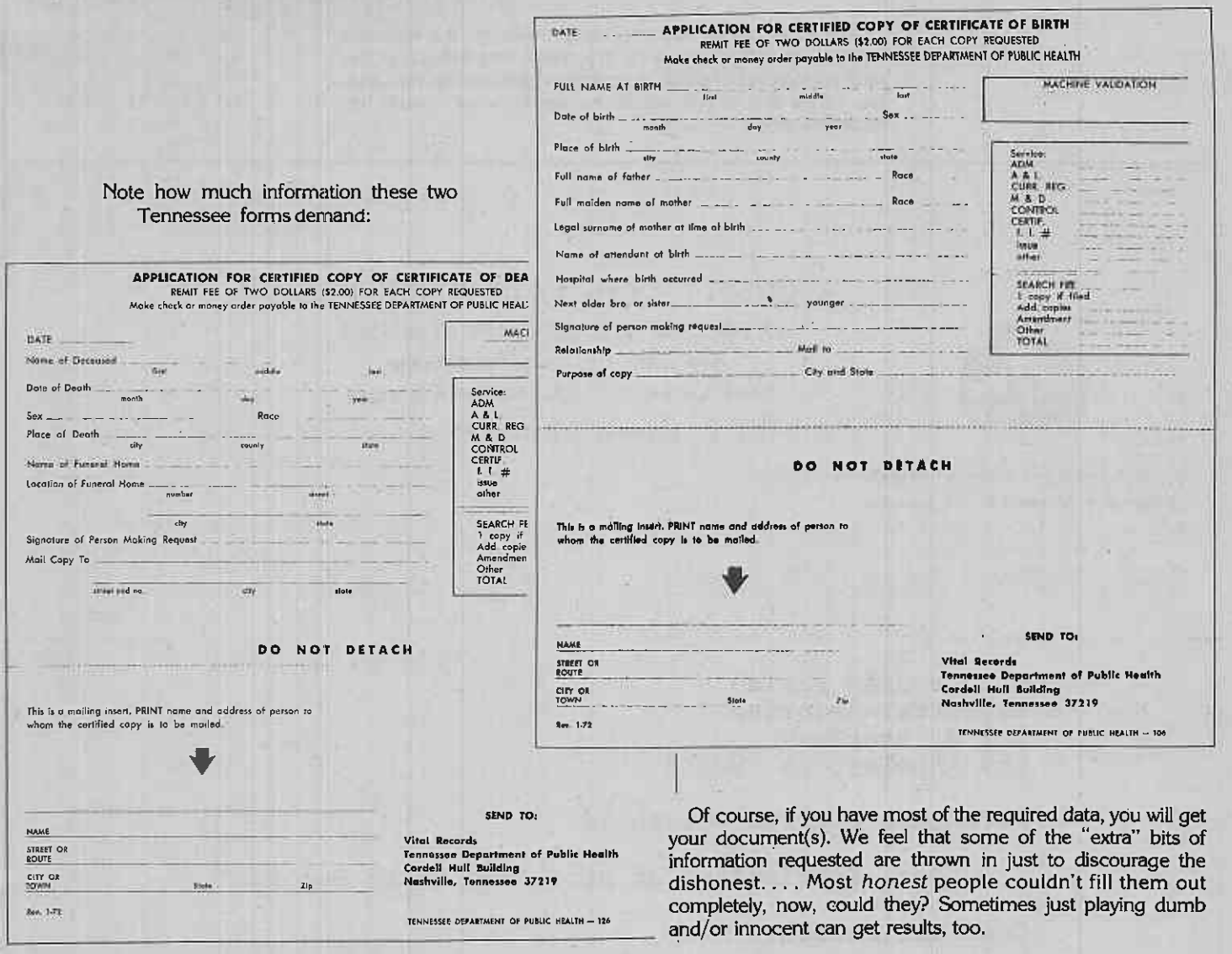
SEARCH FOR ☐ At $2.00 per hour/ptn of H&S Code10606

Signature of applicant

Mail to:

This should make clearer our contention that paper tripping is still easier in the less-populous, more rural areas, even within the same state.

Note how much information these two Tennessee forms demand:



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF DEA

REMIT FEE OF TWO DOLLARS ($2.00) FOR EACH COPY REQUESTED

Make check or money order payable to the TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEAL

DATE

Name of Deceased (first, middle, last)

Date of Death (month, day, year)

Sex Race

Place of Death (city, county, state)

Name of Funeral Home

Location of Funeral Home (number, street)

(city, state)

Signature of Person Making Request

Mail Copy To

(street and no., city, state)

MACI

Service:
ADM
A & L
CURR. REG
M & D
CONTROL
CERTIF.
I. I. #
issue
other

SEARCH FE
1 copy if
Add. copie
Amendmen
Other
TOTAL

DO NOT DETACH

This is a mailing insert. PRINT name and address of person to whom the certified copy is to be mailed.

NAME

STREET OR ROUTE

CITY OR TOWN (State, Zip)

Rev. 1-72

SEND TO:

Vital Records
Tennessee Department of Public Health
Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH — 126

DATE

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

REMIT FEE OF TWO DOLLARS ($2.00) FOR EACH COPY REQUESTED

Make check or money order payable to the TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FULL NAME AT BIRTH (first, middle, last)

Date of birth (month, day, year) Sex

Place of birth (city, county, state)

Full name of father Race

Full maiden name of mother Race

Legal surname of mother at time of birth

Name of attendant at birth

Hospital where birth occurred

Next older bro. or sister younger

Signature of person making request

Relationship Mail to

Purpose of copy City and State

MACHINE VALIDATION

Service:
ADM
A & L
CURR. REG.
M & D
CONTROL
CERTIF.
I. I. #
issue
other

SEARCH FEE
1 copy if filed
Add. copies
Amendment
Other
TOTAL

DO NOT DETACH

This is a mailing insert. PRINT name and address of person to whom the certified copy is to be mailed.

NAME

STREET OR ROUTE

CITY OR TOWN (State, Zip)

Rev. 1-72

SEND TO:

Vital Records
Tennessee Department of Public Health
Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH — 106

Of course, if you have most of the required data, you will get your document(s). We feel that some of the "extra" bits of information requested are thrown in just to discourage the dishonest. . . . Most *honest* people couldn't fill them out completely, now, could they? Sometimes just playing dumb and/or innocent can get results, too.

AGELESS?

Do you need a birth certificate?

The U.S. Bureau of the Census can supply proof of age for persons who have lost or never received birth certificates.

The bureau will look for a record of a person's age listed during a certain year. If this is available and verified, the person will receive a document showing the proper age, *U.S. News & World Report* said.

The document can help a person obtain a delayed birth certificate from state authorities. State and federal agencies as well as most private industries accept the document as a substitute ID.

The fee is $7.50, plus $1 for each additional copy of the transcript. Write to the Personal Census Service Branch, Bureau of Census, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

Those who require proof for Social Security need an application from a local Social Security office.

This letter needs little explanation. Here is the voice of bureaucracy letting you in on the criteria they will accept for random searches of public records. Read between the lines and you will be able to gain access to even the most "closed" of recorder's offices. . . .

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
648 HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

March 31, 1975

JOHN H. LARSON, COUNTY COUNSEL
DONALD K. BYRNE, CHIEF DEPUTY

Mr. Leonard Panish
Registrar-Recorder
227 N. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention Charles Weissburd

Re: Examination of Birth and Death Records

Dear Mr. Panish:

By letter of March 12 you requested the opinion of this office on the question of whether you may "tighten" the screening process of persons who wish to examine birth and death records in your office. The problem arises because some individuals have been using the records to generate false identification papers.

In our opinion you may increase your scrutiny of persons wishing to examine these records.

ANALYSIS

The regulations adopted by the State Department of Health, pursuant to Health and Safety Code §10066, are set forth in Title 17 §902 of the California Administrative Code:

"CONDITIONS OF EXAMINATION OR SEARCH:

Authorization to examine or search the records in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics and in offices of the local registrars must be obtained from the Registrar or Deputy in charge. In order to obtain this authorization, written application shall be made by the applicant stating the information desired, purposes for which the information is to be used and the approximate length of time the records are expected to be used.

If the object of the examination or search is a proper one (in not being merely to gratify idle curiosity or for some scandalous object or for the purpose in which the inquirer is not beneficially interested) then the examination or search shall be authorized upon prepayment to the State Registrar or a local registrar of a fee of $2 per hour or fraction thereof. State Registrar or local registrar shall supervise the examination or search of the records."

In consideration of the facts as you disclose them we believe it proper for you to make a detailed inquiry to assure yourself that "the object of the examination or search is a proper one" and that the inquirer is "beneficially interested" in the information sought.

As you state those who are misusing the records are easily discouraged while legitimate searchers should have no trouble answering a more detailed inquiry.

The examples you give of inquiring as to the particular family name involved in genealogy research, or verifying the employment of academic or commercial researchers we believe to fall well within the preview of the inquiry mandated by §902.

If you have any further questions in this regard we would be pleased to respond.

Very truly yours,

JOHN H. LARSON
County Counsel

By
Edward G. Pozorski
Deputy County Counsel

EGP:sgw

If you're thinking of paper tripping outside the United States, you'll be pleased to know that our basic concepts work in most places very well. Although we do not want to cover this subject here, there are two new publications, both available from Eden Press, that might interest you.

The first is Reborn in Canada ($12.95). All the necessary addresses and details are give so that much of the paper trip can be done by mail. (Yes, in some respects paper tripping is easier in other countries!)

The second is Int'l. Identity Change, and is especially useful for those interested in Commonwealth countries. Very complete and up-to-date. Price is $19.95.

In case you're interested in legal name changes in Canada, we've come across a very authoritative book entitled *Changing Your Name in Canada, How To Do It Legally*, by Constance Mungall. It's available from International Self-Counsel Press Ltd., 306 W. 25th St., North Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7N 2G1. Price is $3.50.

For those of you who want to do extensive out-of-state research for your paper trip, we suggest you begin by studying the following pages.

The complete book, Where to Write for Vital Records, which also lists sources for marriage/divorce records, is $7.95 from Eden Press.

These publications contain some mighty useful data, and should inspire your thinking in new areas. You can see from the charts that prices of certified copies are given, availability of both long and short forms is indicated, and historical information is included which could possibly open up some loopholes in your own personal situation. The addresses can be used for getting up-to-the-minute information, application forms, etc.

In addition to full certified copies of birth certificates, most states offer "short form" copies, or "birth registration cards." State regulations vary widely with respect to the issuance of such documents. In some states, short forms and birth cards are regarded as equivalents of the certified copy and are regulated accordingly. In other states, these forms are regarded merely as verification of the existence of a birth record and are made available rather freely. Both short forms and birth cards are wallet-sized ID which is often used as "proof" of age and identity.

As a "final" note, we've come across a computer service company (Computer Contemporaries, Inc., 1611 North Kent Street, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22209. Telephone: 703/558-8380) that provides a special service to banks. According to one of their advertisements, they don't want to see bankers "dead wrong" about their customers. This company operates The Death Information Audit System (DIAS) which matches bank records against their data base. And some data base: DIAS contains over 40 million records of deceased persons and is updated regularly. While the commercial concern is preventing withdrawls from accounts of deceased persons, we know there is a potential application for paper tripping. We'll turn loose the creative energies of all our readers to come up with ways to turn this interesting service into something truly useful. Go to it!

Certificate of Baptism

This Certifies

That _____

Born _____ 19

was

Baptized

in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

on the ____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord 19__

_____ Pastor.

_____

_____

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Date (of this Certificate) _____ 19__

Where To Write for Vital Records

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Alabama			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Center for Health Statistics State Department of Public Health 434 Monroe Street Montgomery, AL 36130-1701	State office has had records since January 1908. Additional copies at same time are $2.00 each. Fee for special searches is $5.00 per hour. Money order or certified check should be made payable to **Center for Health Statistics.** Personal checks are not accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(205) 242-5033.**
Alaska			
Birth or Death	$7.00	Department of Health and Social Services Bureau of Vital Statistics P.O. Box H-02G Juneau, AK 99811-0675	State office has had records since January 1913. Money order should be made payable to **Bureau of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are not accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(907) 465-3391.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Arizona			
Birth (long form) Birth (short form)	$8.00 $5.00	Vital Records Section Arizona Department of Health Services P.O. Box 3887 Phoenix, AZ 85030	State office has had records since July 1909 and abstracts of records filed in counties before then.
Death	$5.00		Check or money order should be made payable to **Office of Vital Records.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(602) 542-1080.** This will be a **recorded** message. Applicants must submit a copy of picture identification or have their request notarized.
Arkansas			
Birth Death	$5.00 $4.00	Division of Vital Records Arkansas Department of Health 4815 West Markham Street Little Rock, AR 72201	State office has had records since February 1914 and some original Little Rock and Fort Smith records from 1881. Additional copies of death record, when requested at the same time, are $1.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **Arkansas Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(501) 661-2336.** This will be **recorded** message.
California			
Birth Death	$11.00 $7.00	Vital Statistics Section Department of Health Services 410 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814	State office has had records since July 1905. For earlier records, write to County Recorder in county where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **State Registrar, Department of Health Services** or **Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(916) 445-2684.**
Heirloom Birth	$30.00	Same as Birth or Death	Decorative birth certificate (11" x 14") suitable for framing.

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Colorado			
Birth or Death	$6.00 Regular service $10.00 Priority service	Vital Records Section Colorado Department of Health 4210 East 11th Avenue Denver, CO 80220	State office has had death records since 1900 and birth records since 1910. State office also has birth records for some counties for years before 1910. Regular service means the record is mailed within 3 weeks. Priority service means the record is mailed within 5 days. Check or money order should be made payable to **Colorado Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(303) 320-8474.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Connecticut			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Vital Records Department of Health Services 150 Washington Street Hartford, CT 06106	State office has had records since July 1897. For earlier records, write to Registrar of Vital Statistics in town or city where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **Department of Health Services.** Personal checks are accepted. FAX requests are not accepted. Must have original signature on request. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(203) 566-2334.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Delaware			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Office of Vital Statistics Division of Public Health P.O. Box 637 Dover, DE 19903	State office has death records since 1930 and birth records since 1920. Additional copies of the same record requested at the same time are $3.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **Office of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(302) 736-4721.**
District of Columbia			
Birth or Death	$8.00	Vital Records Branch Room 3009 425 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001	Office has had death records since 1855 and birth records since 1874 but no death records were filed during the Civil War. Cashiers check or money order should be made payable to **DC Treasurer.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(202) 727-9281.**
Florida			
Birth Death	$8.00 $4.00	Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services Office of Vital Statistics 1217 Pearl Street Jacksonville, FL 32202	State office has some birth records dating back to April 1865 and some death records dating back to August 1877. The majority of records date from January 1917. (If the exact date is unknown, the fee is $8.00 (births) or $4.00 (deaths) for the first year searched and $2.00 for each additional year up to a maximum of $50.00. Fee includes one certification of record if found or certified statement stating record not on file.) Additional copies are $3.00 each when requested at the same time. Check or money order should be made payable to **Office of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(904) 359-6900.** This will be a **recorded** message.

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Georgia			
Birth or Death	$3.00	Georgia Department of Human Resources Vital Records Unit Room 217-H 47 Trinity Avenue, SW Atlanta, GA 30334	State office has had records since January 1919. For earlier records in Atlanta or Savannah, write to County Health Department in county where event occurred. Additional copies of same record ordered at same time are $1.00 each except birth cards, which are $4.00 each. Money order should be made payable to **Vital Records, GA. DHR.** Personal checks are not accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(404) 656-4900.** This is a **recorded** message.
Hawaii			
Birth or Death	$2.00	Office of Health Status Monitoring State Department of Health P.O. Box 3378 Honolulu, HI 96801	State office has had records since 1853. Check or money order should be made payable to **State Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted for the correct amount only. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(808) 548-5819.** This is a **recorded** message.
Idaho			
Birth or Death	$8.00	Vital Statistics Unit Idaho Department of Health and Welfare 450 West State Street Statehouse Mail Boise, ID 83720-9990	State office has had records since 1911. For records from 1907 to 1911, write to County Recorder in county where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **Idaho Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(208) 334-5988.** This is a **recorded** message.
Illinois			
Birth or Death	$15.00 certified copy $10.00 certification	Division of Vital Records Illinois Department of Public Health 605 West Jefferson Street Springfield, IL 62702-5079	State office has had records since January 1916. For earlier records and for copies of State records since January 1916, write to County Clerk in county where event occurred (county fees vary). The fee for a search of the State files is $10.00. If the record is found, one certified copy is issued at no additional charge. Additional certified copies of the same record ordered at the same time are $2.00 each. The fee for a full certified copy is $15.00. Additional certified copies of the same record ordered at the same time are $2.00 each. Money orders, certified checks, or personal checks should be made payable to **Illinois Department of Public Health.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(217) 782-6553.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Indiana			
Birth Death	$6.00 $4.00	Vital Records Section State Board of Health 1330 West Michigan Street P.O. Box 1964 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1964	State office has had birth records since October 1907 and death records since 1900. Additional copies of the same record ordered at the same time are $1.00 each. For earlier records, write to Health Officer in city or county where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **Indiana State Board of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(317) 633-0274.**

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Iowa			
Birth or Death	$6.00	Iowa Department of Public Health Vital Records Section Lucas Office Building 321 East 12th Street Des Moines, IA 50319	State office has had records since July 1880. Check or money order should be made payable to **Iowa Department of Public Health.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(515) 281-5871.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Kansas			
Birth or Death	$6.00	Office of Vital Statistics Kansas State Department of Health and Environment 900 Jackson Street Topeka, KS 66612-1290	State office has had records since July 1911. For earlier records, write to County Clerk in county where event occurred. Additional copies of same record ordered at same time are $3.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **State Registrar of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(913) 296-1400.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Kentucky			
Birth Death	$5.00 $4.00	Office of Vital Statistics Department for Health Services 275 East Main Street Frankfort, KY 40621	State office has had records since January 1911 and some records for the cities of Louisville, Lexington, Covington, and Newport before then. Check or money order should be made payable to **Kentucky State Treasurer.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(502) 564-4212.**
Louisiana			
Birth (long form) Birth (short form) Death	$8.00 $5.00 $5.00	Vital Records Registry Office of Public Health 325 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, LA 70112	State office has had records since July 1914. Birth records for City of New Orleans are available from 1790, and death records from 1803. Check or money order should be made payable to **Vital Records.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(504) 568-2561.**
Maine			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Office of Vital Records Human Services Building Station 11 State House Augusta, ME 04333	State office has had records since 1892. For earlier records, write to the municipality where the event occurred. Additional copies of same record ordered at same time are $2.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **Treasurer, State of Maine.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(207) 289-3184.**
Maryland			
Birth or Death	$4.00	Division of Vital Records Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Metro Executive Building 4201 Patterson Avenue P.O. Box 68760 Baltimore, MD 21215-0020	State office has had records since August 1898. Records for City of Baltimore are available from January 1875. Will not do research for genealogical studies. Must apply to State of Maryland Archives 350 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis, MD 21401, (301) 974-3914. Check or money order should be made payable to **Division of Vital Records.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(301) 225-5988.** This will be a **recorded** message.

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Massachusetts			
Birth or Death	$6.00	Registry of Vital Records and Statistics 150 Tremont Street, Room B-3 Boston, MA 02111	State office has records since 1896. For earlier records, write to The Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125 (617) 727-2816. Check or money order should be made payable to **Commonwealth of Massachusetts.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(617) 727-7388.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Michigan			
Birth or Death	$10.00	Office of the State Registrar and Center for Health Statistics Michigan Department of Public Health 3423 North Logan Street Lansing, MI 48909	State office has had records since 1867. Copies of records since 1867 may also be obtained from County Clerk in county where event occurred. Fees vary from county to county. Detroit records may be obtained from the City of Detroit Health Department for births occurring since 1893 and for deaths since 1897. Check or money order should be made payable to **State of Michigan.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(517) 335-8655.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Minnesota			
Birth Death	$11.00 $8.00	Minnesota Department of Health Section of Vital Statistics 717 Delaware Street, SE P.O. Box 9441 Minneapolis, MN 55440	State office has had records since January 1908. Copies of earlier records may be obtained from Court Administrator in county where event occurred or from the St. Paul City Health Department if the event occurred in St. Paul. Additional copies of the birth record when ordered at the same time are $5.00 each. Additional copies of the death record when ordered at the same time are $2.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **Treasurer, State of Minnesota.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(612) 623-5121.**
Mississippi			
Birth Birth (short form) Death	$11.00 $6.00 $5.00	Vital Records State Department of Health 2423 North State Street Jackson, MS 39216	State office has had records since 1912. Full copies of birth certificates obtained within 1 year after the event are $5.00. Additional copies of same record ordered at same time are $2.00 each for birth; $1.00 each for death. For out-of-State requests only bank or postal money orders are accepted and should be made payable to **Mississippi State Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted only for in-State requests. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(601) 960-7981.** A **recorded** message may be reached on (601) 960-7450.

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Missouri			
Birth or Death	$4.00	Department of Health Bureau of Vital Records 1730 East Elm P.O. Box 570 Jefferson City, MO 65102	State office has had records since January 1910. If event occurred in St. Louis (City), St. Louis County, or Kansas City before 1910, write to the City or County Health Department. Copies of these records are $3.00 each in St. Louis City and $5.00 each in St. Louis County. In Kansas City, $6.00 for first copy and $3.00 for each additional copy ordered at same time. Check or money order should be made payable to **Missouri Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees on birth records, the telephone number is **(314) 751-6387**; for death records, **(314) 751-6376**.
Montana			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Bureau of Records and Statistics State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences Helena, MT 59620	State office has had records since late 1907. Check or money order should be made payable to **Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(406) 444-2614.**
Nebraska			
Birth Death	$6.00 $5.00	Bureau of Vital Statistics State Department of Health 301 Centennial Mall South P.O. Box 95007 Lincoln, NE 68509-5007	State office has had records since late 1904. If birth occurred before then, write the State office for information. Check or money order should be made payable to **Bureau of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(402) 471-2871.**
Nevada			
Birth or Death	$7.00	Division of Health-Vital Statistics Capitol Complex 505 East King Street #102 Carson City, NV 89710	State office has records since July 1911. For earlier records, write to County Recorder in county where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **Section of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(702) 885-4480.**
New Hampshire			
Birth or Death	$3.00	Bureau of Vital Records Health and Human Services Building 6 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03301	State office has had records since 1640. Copies of records may be obtained from State office or from City or Town Clerk in place where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **Treasurer, State of New Hampshire.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(603) 271-4654.** This will be a **recorded** message.
New Jersey			
Birth or Death	$4.00	State Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics South Warren and Market Streets CN 370 Trenton, NJ 08625	State office has had records since June 1878. Additional copies of same record ordered at same time are $2.00 each. If the exact date is unknown, the fee is an additional $1.00. Check or money order should be made payable to **New Jersey State Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(609) 292-4087.** This will be a **recorded** message.

Place of event	Cost of copy	Address	Remarks
New Mexico			
Birth Death	$10.00 $5.00	Vital Statistics New Mexico Health Services Division 1190 St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87503	State office has had records since 1920 and delayed records since 1880. Check or money order should be made payable to **Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(505) 827-2338.** This will be a **recorded** message.
New York (except New York City)			
Birth or Death	$15.00	Vital Records Section State Department of Health Empire State Plaza Tower Building Albany, NY 12237-0023	State office has had records since 1880. For records before 1914 in Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers, or before 1880 in any other city, write to Registrar of Vital Statistics in city where event occurred. For the rest of the State, except New York City, write to State office. Check or money order should be made payable to **New York State Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(518) 474-3075.** This will be a **recorded** message.
New York City			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Bureau of Vital Records Department of Health of New York City 125 Worth Street New York, NY 10013	Office has birth records since 1898 and death records since 1930. For Old City of New York (Manhattan and part of the Bronx) birth records for 1865–97 and death records for 1865–1929 write to Archives Division, Department of Records and Information Services, 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007. Money order should be made payable to **New York City Department of Health.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(212) 619-4530.** This will be a **recorded** message.
North Carolina			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources Division of Epidemiology Vital Records Section 225 North McDowell Street P.O. Box 27687 Raleigh, NC 27611-7687	State office has had birth records since October 1913 and death records since January 1, 1930. Death records from 1913 through 1929 are available from Archives and Records Section, State Records Center, 215 North Blount Street, Raleigh, NC 27602. Check or money order should be made payable to **Vital Records Section.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(919) 733-3526.**
North Dakota			
Birth Death	$7.00 $5.00	Division of Vital Records State Capitol 600 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, ND 58505	State office has had some records since July 1893. Years from 1894 to 1920 are incomplete. Additional copies of birth records are $4.00 each; death records are $2.00 each. Money order should be made payable to **Division of Vital Records.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(701) 224-2360.**

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Ohio			
Birth or Death	$7.00	Division of Vital Statistics Ohio Department of Health G-20 Ohio Department Building 65 South Front Street Columbus, OH 43266-0333	State office has had birth records since December 20, 1908. For earlier birth and death records, write to the Probate Court in the county where the event occurred. The State Office has death records which occurred less than 50 years ago. Check or money order should be made payable to **State Treasury.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(614) 466-2531.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Oklahoma			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Vital Records Section State Department of Health 1000 Northeast 10th Street P.O. Box 53551 Oklahoma City, OK 73152	State office has had records since October 1908. Check or money order should be made payable to **Oklahoma State Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(405) 271-4040.**
Oregon			
Birth or Death	$8.00	Oregon Health Division Vital Statistics Section P.O. Box 116 Portland, OR 97207	State office has had records since January 1903. Some earlier records for the City of Portland since approximately 1880 are available from the Oregon State Archives, 1005 Broadway, NE, Salem, OR 97310
Heirloom Birth	$25.00	Same as Birth or Death	Presentation style calligraphy certificate suitable for framing. Check or money order should be made payable to **Oregon Health Division.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(503) 229-5710.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Pennsylvania			
Birth Wallet card Death	$4.00 $5.00 $3.00	Division of Vital Records State Department of Health Central Building 101 South Mercer Street P.O. Box 1528 New Castle, PA 16103	State office has had records since January 1906. Check or money order should be made payable to **Division of Vital Records.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(412) 656-3147.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Puerto Rico			
Birth or Death	$2.00	Department of Health Demographic Registry P.O. Box 11854 Fernández Juncos Station San Juan, PR 00910	Central office has had records since July 22, 1931. Copies of earlier records may be obtained by writing to local Registrar (Registrador Demografico) in municipality where event occurred or by writing to central office for information. Money order should be made payable to **Secretary of the Treasury.** Personal checks are not accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(809) 728-7980.**
Rhode Island			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Division of Vital Records Rhode Island Department of Health Room 101, Cannon Building 3 Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908-5097	State office has had records since 1853. For earlier records, write to Town Clerk in town where event occurred. Additional copies of the same record ordered at the same time are $3.00 each. Money order should be made payable to **General Treasurer, State of Rhode Island.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(401) 277-2811.** This will be a **recorded** message.

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
South Carolina			
Birth or Death	$6.00	Office of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201	State office has had records since January 1915. Check or money order should be made payable to **Office of Vital Records.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(803) 734-4830.**
South Dakota			
Birth or Death	$5.00	State Department of Health Center for Health Policy and Statistics Vital Records 523 E. Capitol Pierre, SD 57501	State office has had records since July 1905 and access to other records for some events that occurred before then. Money order should be made payable to **South Dakota Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(605) 773-3355.** This will be a **recorded** message .
Tennessee			
Birth (long form) Birth (short form) Death	$10.00 $5.00 $5.00	Tennessee Vital Records Department of Health and Environment Cordell Hull Building Nashville, TN 37219-5402	State office has had birth records for entire State since January 1914 Additional copies of the same birth, marriage, or divorce record, requested at the same time, are $2.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **Tennessee Vital Records.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(615) 741-1763.** In Tennessee call **1-800-423-1901.**
Texas			State office has had records since 1903. Additional copies of same record ordered at same time are $2.00 each.
Birth or Death	$8.00	Bureau of Vital Statistics Texas Department of Health 1100 West 49th Street Austin, TX 78756-3191	Check or money order should be made payable to **Texas Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(512) 458-7451.** This is a **recorded** message.
Utah			
Birth Death	$11.00 $8.00	Bureau of Vital Records Utah Department of Health 288 North 1460 West P.O. Box 16700 Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0700	State office has had records since 1905. Check or money order should be made payable to **Utah Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(801) 538-6105.** This is a **recorded** message.
Vermont			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Vermont Department of Health Vital Records Section Box 70 60 Main Street Burlington, VT 05402	State has had records since 1955. Check or money order should be made payable to **Vermont Department of Health.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(802) 863-7275.**
Birth, Death, or Marriage	$5.00	Division of Public Records 6 Baldwin Street Montpelier, VT 05602	Records prior to 1955. Town or City Clerk of town where birth or death occurred.
Virginia			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Division of Vital Records State Health Department P.O. Box 1000 Richmond, VA 23208-1000	State office has had records from January 1853 to December 1896 and since June 14, 1912. For records between those dates, write to the Health Department in the city where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **State Health Department.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(804) 786-6228.**

Place of event	*Cost of copy*	*Address*	*Remarks*
Virgin Islands			
Birth or Death St. Croix	$10.00	Registrar of Vital Statistics Charles Harwood Memorial Hospital St. Croix, VI 00820	Registrar has had birth and death records on file since 1840.
St. Thomas and St. John	$10.00	Registrar of Vital Statistics Knud Hansen Complex Hospital Ground Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, VI 00802	Registrar has had birth records on file since July 1906 and death records since January 1906. Money order for birth and death records should be made payable to **Bureau of Vital Statistics.** Personal checks are not accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(809) 774-9000 ext. 218 or 298.**
Washington			
Birth or Death	$11.00	Vital Records 1112 South Quince P.O. Box 9709, ET-11 Olympia, WA 98504-9709	State office has had records since July 1907. For King, Pierce, and Spokane counties copies may also be obtained from county health departments. Money order should be made payable to **Vital Records.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(206) 753-5936.** Recorded messages for out of State, call **1-800-551-0562;** in State, call **1-800-331-0680.**
West Virginia			
Birth or Death	$5.00	Vital Registration Office Division of Health State Capitol Complex Bldg. 3 Charleston, WV 25305	State office has had records since January 1917. For earlier records, write to Clerk of County Court in county where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **Vital Registration.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(304) 348-2931.**
Wisconsin			
Birth Death	$8.00 $5.00	Vital Records 1 West Wilson Street P.O. Box 309 Madison, WI 53701	State Office has scattered records earlier than 1857. Records before October 1, 1907, are very incomplete. Additional copies of the same record ordered at the same time are $2.00 each. Check or money order should be made payable to **Center for Health Statistics.** Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(608) 266-1371.** This will be a **recorded** message.
Wyoming			
Birth Death	$5.00 $3.00	Vital Records Services Hathaway Building Cheyenne, WY 82002	State office has had records since July 1909. Money order should be made payable to **Vital Records Services.** To verify current fees, the telephone number is **(307) 777-7591.**

Birth Records of Persons Born in Foreign Countries Who Are U.S. Citizens at Birth

Births of U.S. citizens in foreign countries should be reported to the nearest American consular office as soon after the birth as possible on the Consular Report of Birth (Form FS-240). This report should be prepared and filed by one of the parents. However, the physician or midwife attending the birth or any other person having knowledge of the facts can prepare the report.

Documentary evidence is required to establish citizenship. Consular offices provide complete information on what evidence is needed. The Consular Report of Birth is a sworn statement of facts of birth. When approved, it establishes in documentary form the child's acquisition of U.S. citizenship. It has the same value as proof of citizenship as the Certificate of Citizenship issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Filing a Consular Report of Birth is not authorized for children 5 years of age or older.

A $13.00 fee is charged for reporting the birth. The original document is filed in the Passport Services, Correspondence Branch, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524. The parents are given a certified copy of the Consular Report of Birth (Form FS-240) and a short form, Certification of Birth (Form DS-1350 or Form FS-545).

To obtain a copy of a report of the birth in a foreign country of a U.S. citizen, write to Passport Services, Correspondence Branch, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524. State the full name of the child at birth, date of birth, place of birth, and names of parents. Also include any information about the U.S. passport on which the child's name was first included. Sign the request and state the relationship to the person whose record is being requested and the reason for the request.

The fee for each copy is $4.00. Enclose a check or money order made payable to the U.S. Department of State.

The Department of State issues two types of copies from the Consular Report of Birth (Form FS-240):

- A full copy of Form FS-240 as it was filed.
- A short form, Certification of Birth (Form DS-1350), which shows only the name and sex of child and the date and place of birth.

The information in both forms is valid. The Certification of Birth may be obtained in a name subsequently acquired by adoption or legitimation after proof is submitted to establish that such an action legally took place.

Birth Records of Alien Children Adopted by U.S. Citizens

Birth certifications for alien children adopted by U.S. citizens and lawfully admitted to the United States may be obtained from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20536, if the birth information is on file.

Certification may be issued for children under 21 years of age who were born in a foreign country. Requests must be submitted on INS Form G-641, which can be obtained from any INS office. (Address can be found in a telephone directory.) For Certification of Birth Data (INS Form G-350), a $5.00 search fee, paid by check or money order, should accompany INS Form G-641.

Certification can be issued in the new name of an adopted or legitimated child after proof of an adoption or legitimation is submitted to INS. Because it may be issued for a child who has not yet become a U.S. citizen, this certification (Form G-350) is not proof of U.S. nationality.

Certificate of Citizenship

U.S. citizens who were born abroad and later naturalized or who were born in a foreign country to a U.S. citizen (parent or parents) may apply for a certificate of citizenship pursuant to the provisions of Section 341 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Application can be made for this document in the United States at the nearest office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The INS will issue a certificate of citizenship for the person if proof of citizenship is submitted and the person is within the United States. The decision whether to apply for a certificate of citizenship is optional; its possession is not mandatory.

Death Records of U.S. Citizens Who Die in Foreign Countries

The death of a U.S. citizen in a foreign country is normally reported to the nearest U.S. consular office. The consul prepares the official "Report of the Death of an American Citizen Abroad" (form OF-180), and a copy of the Report of Death is filed permanently in the U.S. Department of State (see exception below).

To obtain a copy of a report, write to Passport Services, Correspondence Branch, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20524. The fee for a copy is $4.00.

Records of Births and Deaths Occurring on Vessels or Aircraft on the High Seas

When a birth or death occurs on the high seas, whether in an aircraft or on a vessel, the determination of where the record is filed is decided by the direction in which the vessel or aircraft was headed at the time the event occurred.

a. If the vessel or aircraft was outbound or docked or landed at a foreign port, requests for copies of the record should be made to the U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.
b. If the vessel or aircraft was inbound and the first port of entry was in the United States, write to the registration authority in the city where the vessel or aircraft docked or landed in the United States.
c. If the vessel was of U.S. registry, contact the U.S. Coast Guard facility at the port of entry.

Records Maintained by Foreign Countries

U.S. citizens who need a copy of a foreign birth or death record may obtain assistance by writing to the Office of Overseas Citizens Services, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Aliens residing in the United States who seek records of these events should contact their nearest consular office.

COUNTERFEITING

Counterfeit birth certificates can also be used to create new identities. Counterfeiting is aided by the fact that forms of birth certificates and authenticating seals vary widely in the U.S. There are *many* different forms currently used for issuing certified copies, and virtually *none* of the government issued copies is secure against even photocopying. Erasure and simple photocopying are the most common methods of doctoring birth certificates. Genuine blank forms and even official seals are sometimes obtained to create counterfeit certificates. Theft of blank forms or misuse by dishonest clerks occurs in some states by the lack of strict security and accounting procedures for blank forms.

State laws regulating access to and fraudulent use of birth certificates are full of loopholes. Although it is illegal in many states to fraudulently alter or use a birth certificate in another person's name, it is not illegal to *possess* an altered, forged or counterfeit birth certificate or to *apply* for a genuine birth certificate in another person's name.

The Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification (FACFI) would like to see all vital records offices use a form of this type for *applications* for certified copies of birth certificates. They claim that this form would insure that mail requests for birth certificates contain information known only to bona fide applicants and thus cut down on the number of "imposter" applications. The "WARNING" at the bottom of the form is completely exaggerated. No such law(s) exist that mete out such draconian punishment; it's more a reflection of the hard-line mentality left over from the days of the Nixon Gang.

Here are FACFI's actual recommendations regarding the "security" needed to protect birth certificates from illicit use by paper trippers:

1) Birth certificates should be *nationally standardized* as accountable documents. They should be produced on counterfeit-proof, non-alterable stock.

2) Unofficially-issued photocopies should not be acceptable as proof of birth.

3) *A central agency* should be given the responsibility of maintaining a *cross-indexed file* of all future births and deaths on a national basis.

4) Each state should centralize birth and death certificate information, cross-indexed, in a state vital records office.

None of these recommendations is now in effect, and we see no bureaucratic haste towards such reorganization, etc.

If the states begin restricting public access to vital records and requiring "justification" for issuance of certified copies of birth certificates, an alternative will be the counterfeiting of certificates. To counter this possibility, however, FACFI recommends that the states adopt a standard format for certified copies and that these certificates be issued in a form that is "highly resistant to counterfeiting and alteration."

Were the states to follow this suggestion, every request for a certified copy would necessitate a complete filling out of a new certificate on a blank form, rather than reproduction by photocopying. FACFI's ideas would be to put the data on a background of lithographed safety paper (like the blank forms from Goes Lithographing, Chicago). Such paper is readily available now for anyone wanting to use it for counterfeiting purposes. Seals and signatures can always be duplicated and/or forged, too. Finally, by proposing a single form and format for certified copies, FACFI is making a proposal *exactly opposite* to its finding that a "national ID card" would be a BAD IDEA. Thank heavens for the mush heads of FACFI. . .!!

SOME USABLE PRODUCTS

We mentioned earlier that most of the fake ID on the market is junk. When it comes to the serious business of paper tripping, none of the different forms and types we know of are good for the job. It might get you in to see "The Cheerleaders," or impress your kid brother, but it will never get you a driver's license or a Social Security card.

The following two blank forms were produced and sold by a Midwest mail order company until sometime in 1978. At present,

REQUEST FOR COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Mail request with fee or bring to:
(name) **STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH**
Public Health Statistics Section, Room ____
PLEASE PRINT *(address)*

I. BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF:		II. PARENTS OF PERSON NAMED IN BIRTH CERTIFICATE	
FULL NAME AT BIRTH		FATHER'S FULL NAME	FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE *(Town)*
DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE *(Town)*
PLACE OF BIRTH *(City, County, State, Hospital)*		RESIDENCE OF PARENTS AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH	

III. PERSON MAKING THIS REQUEST			
Your Name		NUMBER OF COPIES WANTED	
Your Address	*(No. and Street)*	FEE ENCLOSED *(See Fee Schedule)*	$
	(Town, State) *(Zip Code)*		

For the protection of the individual, certificates of vital events are **not** *open to public inspection.*

The following must be completed in order to permit this office to comply with the request.

RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON NAMED IN CERTIFICATE *(e.g., parents, attorney)*	FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU NEED THIS COPY?

Your Signature ▶

Warning: False application for a birth certificate is punishable by up to five years in prison and/or $10,000 fine.

we do not believe these forms are any longer offered for sale, or that any similar forms are offered by any other mail order firm.

They are included here to illustrate what typical master forms look like before they are filled in and signed. It is this original form that is retained by the county recorder and later photocopied or photostated to produce a "Certified Copy." They are usually printed on a very heavy paper stock or card stock. These two forms resemble very closely the general format used by many vital records offices in most of the states.

IMPORTANT! This is a Permanent cord. Use Typewriter or Ink

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS

DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

Certificate Number

REGISTRANT (Person whose Birth is being registered)	1. Registrant's Full Name at Birth		BIRTH DATE 2. Month Day Year	
	3. Color or Race	4. Sex	BIRTH DATE 5a. City or town of birth	5b. County of birth
FATHER	6. Full Name of Father			7. State or country of Father's birth
MOTHER	8. Full Maiden Name of Mother			9. State or country of Mother's birth
AFFIDAVIT	I hereby declare upon oath that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.		10. Signature of Registrant	11. Present address of Registrant
NOTARY (Seal)	Subscribed and sworn to before me on 19		12. Signature of Notary	13. Notary Commission expires 19

APPLICANT--DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

SAMPLE

Type of Document		By whom issued and signed	Date Issued	Date Orig. Entry
Date of Birth	Birth Place	Full Name of Mother	Name of Father	
Type of Document		By whom issued and signed	Date Issued	Date Orig. Entry
Date of Birth	Birth Place	Full Name of Mother	Name of Father	
Type of Document		By whom issued and signed	Date Issued	Date Orig. Entry
Date of Birth	Birth Place	Full Name of Mother	Name of Father	
Type of Document		By whom issued and signed	Date Issued	Date Orig. Entry
Date of Birth	Birth Place	Full Name of Mother	Name of Father	
QUALIFYING INFORMATION				
REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATION (Seal)	I hereby certify that no prior birth certificate has been found in the Division of Public Health Statistics for this registrant and that documentary evidence has been reviewed, which substantiates the facts as set forth in the foregoing abstract.			
	State Registrar	Evidence reviewed by	Date Filed	

The "finishing touches" to ID you make yourself can be in the form of rubber stamping and embossed seals. The best and fastest way to locate a source of these tools is simply to check the Yellow Pages under the headings "Seals — Corporation and Notary" and "Rubber Stamps." In directories of even modest size you will find numerous listings. Local firms can produce virtually any seal or stamp you require.

The seals shown on the opposite page are some of the hundreds of "stock" dies available to seal makers through wholesale firms like Justrite. They also happen to be the center portions of certain states' own seals. Without exaggeration it can be said that you can get virtually any kind of seal you want from any firm offering the service. Like printers, these folks don't read the writing. . .

If you encountered too much resistance from a particular seal maker, it wouldn't be too much for him simply to produce a "blank" seal with merely the standard, center portion. You could then order a second seal from another maker which had the desired wording around the outside. By cutting and filing away the unwanted parts of each seal, you could emboss the seal desired simply by using them in succession, one over the other. Many possibilities with this technique.



Form approved
Budget Bureau No. 66-R374.3.

STATE OF

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

BIRTH NO.

1. PLACE OF BIRTH
a. COUNTY
b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION
c. NAME OF *(If not in hospital, give street address)* HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION
d. IS PLACE OF BIRTH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES ☐ NO ☐

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER *(Where does mother live?)*
a. STATE b. COUNTY
c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION
d. STREET ADDRESS
e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES ☐ NO ☐
f. IS RESIDENCE A FARM? YES ☐ NO ☐

3. NAME *First Middle Last* (Type or print)

4. SEX

5a. THIS BIRTH SINGLED TWIN ☐ TRIPLET ☐

5b. IF TWIN OR TRIPLET, WAS CHILD BORN 1ST ☐ 2D ☐ 3D ☐

6. DATE OF BIRTH *Month Day Year*

7. NAME *First Middle Last*

8. COLOR OR RACE

9. AGE *(At time of this birth)* YEARS

10. BIRTHPLACE *(State or foreign country)*

11a. USUAL OCCUPATION

11b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY

12. MAIDEN NAME *First Middle Last*

13. COLOR OR RACE

14. AGE *(At time of this birth)* YEARS

15. BIRTHPLACE *(State or foreign country)*

16. PREVIOUS DELIVERIES TO MOTHER *(DO NOT include this birth)*
a. How many OTHER children are now living?
b. How many OTHER children were born alive but are now dead?
c. How many fetal deaths (fetuses born dead at ANY time after conception)?

17. INFORMANT

18. MOTHER'S MAILING ADDRESS

I hereby certify that this child was born alive on the date stated above.

18a. SIGNATURE

18b. ATTENDANT AT BIRTH M.D ☐ D. O. ☐ MIDWIFE ☐ OTHER *(Specify)*

18c. ADDRESS

18d. DATE SIGNED

19. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG.

20. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE

21. DATE ON WHICH GIVEN NAME ADDED BY *(Registrar)*

FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH USE ONLY
(This section MUST be filled out)

22a. LENGTH OF PREGNANCY COMPLETED WEEKS

22b. WEIGHT AT BIRTH LB. OZ.

23. LEGITIMATE YES ☐ NO ☐

(SPACE FOR ADDITION OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH ITEMS BY INDIVIDUAL STATES)

SAMPLE

You will find virtually no difficulty in ordering rubber stamps to fit your exact needs. There are many official agencies which do not use seals at all, but rather stamps with concepts like those listed below. The ink used is usually green, purple, or blue, almost never black. Here again, a "combination" stamp could be produced by having two or more stamps produced separately, then stamped together to generate the desired effect.

We don't want to get into all the fine points of commercial art and printing, so if you feel that the product you want to create is "beyond" you at the present, your best alternative is to get a friend who has such abilities to do it for you, or to go to a regular commercial artist, tell him (lots of hers, too) what you want, and they will prepare "camera-ready" art for you to take to a printer. NEVER expect a "printer" to do this kind of work for you — it's not their bag. Some may *say* they do artwork, but the results you'll get back will most likely leave you disappointed. I include these points because there has always been much public confusion over just what printers can do and can't do. As a class of tradespeople, they are much better off at their presses. When it comes to art, they have no imagination, and should never try to pawn off such "service" on the unsuspecting public. For best results, use an ARTIST, got it?



COMMONWEALTH OF

STATE OF

REPUBLIC OF

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

DELAYED CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

STATE OF

REPUBLIC OF

PROVINCE OF

1234567890

1234567890

1234567890

1234567890

VERIFIED

CERTIFIED

Department Of
VITAL STATISTICS

County Clerk

COURT CLERK

CERTIFIED
COPY

County Recorder

CERTIFIED COPY

NOTARIZED

REGISTERED

BUREAU OF
VITAL STATISTICS

RECORDED

Bureau Of
VITAL RECORDS

**Office of
County Clerk**

Registration No. _____

File No. _____

Authorized By

_____

COMMISSIONER / DIRECTOR

**Department of
Vital Records**

FILED

Date

RECORDED BY

DEGREE GRANTED

Registered Identification

_____

Court Clerk

Date: _____

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

**Valid When Signed
By Registrar**

RECORDS OFFICE
Dean of Students

***Department Of
PUBLIC HEALTH***

_____

*VERIFIED
and
ISSUED BY*

CERTIFIED COPY

CERTIFIED COPY

CERTIFIED COPY

**Office of
County Recorder**

_____

Clerk

DRIVER'S LICENSES

Driver's licenses are issued by all the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The popularity of driver's licenses as identification is due in part to the fact that a driver's license always carries the bearer's signature, date of birth, and some type of physical description. They also carry (usually) the full name of the operator, a license "number," and an expiration date. Address is used by all states.

The following physical descriptions are used by the different states according to this count made in mid-1985:

SEX: Indicated on the license of all states except Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Vermont.

HEIGHT: All states except Connecticut, Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

WEIGHT: Used in 38 states.

COLOR OF EYES: Used in 34 states.

COLOR OF HAIR: Now indicated in only 15 states.

RACE: Still shown in seven states: Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

FINGERPRINTS: No longer used by any state in the current format of its driver's licenses.

SSN: The driver's Social Security Number (SSN) is collected and maintained by 31 states' Department of Motor Vehicles, or other licensing agency. Eleven states list the SSN on the license face in addition to the driver license number. These states are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wyoming. In 13 states the SSN becomes the actual license number: Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Washington, DC. In these latter states, if the applicant does not already have an SSN, the licensing agency will create its own nine-digit sequence to resemble one. Under provisions of the Privacy Act, however, the use of Social Security Numbers cannot be extended to record systems not using the SSN prior to January 1, 1975.

PHOTOGRAPH: All the states now produce driver's licenses with the photo of the person named. All are produced in living color, too. Virtually all the states have the ability to issue their driver's licenses "on the spot" thanks to the photo processing they use. Twenty-four states use Polaroid equipment, which is specifically designed to provide instant service. The rest of the states (with only two or three exceptions) use a similar process manufactured by a company called DEK/Electro. Their licenses can also be issued immediately once the application process is completed. Our chart lists those states which use each process. It must be noted, however, that some states (California is a good example), even though they employ a particular process, still do NOT issue their licenses on the spot; instead, they are processed (photographically) in a central location and mailed to the holder. It's safe to assume, however, that those states using the Polaroid process DO issue their licenses immediately, since this is the prime attraction of the Polaroid process. If you ever need to know for certain, simply call the licensing agency before applying. They will tell you all you need to know over the telephone.

DUPLICATE LICENSES

About 10 percent of the licenses issued each year are duplicates, replacing lost or stolen licenses. When a wallet or purse is stolen, many times all the other ID goes with it. Some states have on-line computer terminals which allow license clerks to verify immediately the data a theft victim provides when applying for a duplicate license. He can then get a license on the spot. If the state does not operate a computer registry system, the clerk can issue a temporary license "on trust," or make the applicant wait for verification, which can take from hours to days. Most states, however, are set up to take care of legitimately victimized drivers, and trippers should be more than able to avail themselves of such policies. Call first to find out. . . .

There is a trend now among the states in requiring more identification when applying for either a new or a duplicate driver's license. Massachusetts *now* wants three pieces of ID when applying for a duplicate. Here is a list of the types of documents wanted under these circumstances. They are grouped according to their general acceptability to most motor vehicle departments. A good paper tripper, naturally, will have all the paper they want.

SECURE ID

Color photo driver's license
U.S. Passport
Military discharge papers
Home mortgage/lease papers
Transcripts of school records
Birth certificate (!)
Military ID
State-issued photo ID
Federal agency employee ID
Police pistol permit (photo and fingerprint)

MODERATELY SECURE ID

Divorce papers or court order
Expired license with photo
Car registration
Student ID
Employee ID with photo and signature

NOT-SO-SECURE ID

Non-photo driver's license
Cancelled check with signature
Checkbook with name and address
Bankbook
Insurance papers
Marriage certificate
Bills with name and address
Christmas Club account
Welfare card
Charge card with signature
Baptismal certificate
Gun owner permit
Social Security card

LICENSE RENEWALS

Since all states now use photo processing for their driver's licenses, renewals must be made in person. (In the past a number of states simply used data processing cards for driver's licenses. All a person had to do was receive notice through the mail that his license had to be renewed, and he could return the appropriate fees to get the new license — through the mail.) As with transfer licenses, the applicant usually has to submit a current application, pass a written test and an eye test, and pay the correct fees. The only ID required is the old license itself. The typical driver's license is valid for four years.

TRANSFER LICENSES

We mentioned earlier how one state will accept another state's documents at face value. This is especially true of driver's licenses, since they have become the number-one preferred form of personal identification. When a person moves to another state he will usually want to acquire a driver's license from that state. The easiest way to do this is to take his existing license to the registering agency and present it as his ID. The new state will generally require an eye test, a written test, the appropriate fee, and an application requesting current description and other data. If everything "checks out," the license can generally be processed and given to the driver while he waits.

States which belong to the Driver License Compact or observe the Uniform Vehicle Code or Highway Safety Program #5, (45 states) have the policy of confiscating the applicant's old license when he applies for a transfer license. They then either return it to the issuing state or destroy it. But suppose a person would really rather keep his old license, for whatever reason? Well, thanks to the efficiency of modern telecommunications and computers, this can be done! Many times when people move things get lost or go astray, including important records and documents, even driver's licenses. All an applicant for a transfer license has to do is go to the new state's licensing agency and TELL them he has an out-of-state license, and that he can even give them its number. The clerk can then contact that state's agency (this could take a few days if there is no direct hookup, or they inquire by mail) for verification. When it comes back the new application will be approved and a new license issued. By good fortune the old license just might show up later in a suitcase that got mixed up with the Christmas decorations. . .

COUNTERFEIT LICENSES

Forty-four states claim to seek positive proof of full name, date and place of birth of an applicant prior to issuance of an initial driver's license. Such proof is usually waived if the applicant presents a valid license from another state. A birth certificate is always accepted as proof. Some states also accept school records, military ID, and baptismal certificates.

At present, there are so many loopholes in the license application procedure that it is easier to obtain a valid license using an alternate identity than to counterfeit a license. If and when the loopholes get tighter, however, counterfeiting will become more attractive to trippers. By the way, effective countermeasures to counterfeiting are almost non-existent.

Because all the states DO use photo processes to produce their driver's licenses, they are all the more vulnerable to counterfeiting methods using exactly the same equipment, which is freely available on the open market. (Our book, ID by MAIL, lists all the manufacturers, suppliers, etc.) The most "effective" anti-counterfeiting techniques used to date are the use of state seals and the name of the state imbedded in the plastic laminations which are visible under reflective light. The only states doing this at present are California, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and New York. Two states, Hawaii and Minnesota, produce licenses with embossed data, which can easily be "ironed over" and replaced with different data. The great majority of the states rely on having their state seal overlap both the photo and the data portion of the license. For good measure they sometimes add the licensing director's signature and maybe even the camera number. These latter techniques are the easiest of all for a counterfeiter to copy, since they are entirely photographic. Our new federal law has strong words on counterfeiting, so we don't recommend this method of acquiring a driver's license.

THE NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER (NDR)

The NDR in Washington, D.C., is a national clearinghouse for the issuance of driver's licenses. Its purpose is to catch applicants who have their licenses revoked or suspended in one state from applying for new licenses in other states.

If a driver has his license revoked in State A, this revocation is recorded with NDR. If the driver then applies in State B for a license, State B will request a copy of his driving record from NDR. When State B learns of the revocation, it is free to take whatever action it deems appropriate. The NDR is basically an information exchange, and does *not* dictate enforcement procedures to the states.

The NDR lists about five million names of drivers whose licenses have been revoked. Each day it receives the names of about 5500 people who lose their licenses, sometimes merely for lack of insurance payments. The NDR answers about 85,000 inquiries per day.

Practitioners of the paper trip need not fear NDR since it is strictly a "straight" information source. Drivers who use their same names in another state are going to be spotted. Paper trippers will sail right through with "nothing to report." But here's an important NOTE: The programming of the NDR is designed to catch those drivers who play "cutesy" by reversing their names, switching to initials, making a slightly new spelling of their name, or just changing date of birth. A paper tripper with a completely new name, date of birth, and new SSN will go right past this computer's blind eyes. The SSN is the basic identifier used by NDR, so if your state does not ask for your SSN, it would seem safe to say they do not use the NDR, either.

THE DRIVER LICENSE COMPACT

One more interstate control of licensed drivers is this "Driver License Compact," to which 29 states belong. This agency handles convictions of traffic violations. Out-of-state records of such convictions get sent back to the driver's home state, and can sometimes bring unexpected increases in the driver's insurance rates. States which belong to the Compact all agree to confiscate a driver's out-of-state license upon issuance of a license in the new state. See "TRANSFER LICENSES" for more on this.

FINGERPRINTS?

Many state licensing agencies require one or two thumbprints on their applications for driver's licenses. As mentioned above, these prints do not appear on the license itself. Many readers have expressed concern over this practice, and we do join in their general dislike of the methods used and the rationale behind it. Here are a few items to consider regarding state-fingerprinting for driver's licenses:

1. The resulting fingerprints (or thumbprints) are NOT classified in any way and/or sent to the FBI for such classification. The FBI will not perform this task. Instead, the print is maintained with the application, period. The best reason for the practice is undoubtedly psychological — as a "deterrent" to those who might make a mockery of the licensing function.

2. Applicants anxious to preserve their privacy and willing to give Big Brother a jab in the eye for his efforts, make a practice of giving a print that is totally worthless — an indistinguishable smudge or smear with no useful charac-

teristics for identification. They accomplish this by pressing harder than the clerk requires, and by giving the finger a twist as the print is made. Having the surface of the finger somewhat oily helps, too. Since most clerks have had no training whatever in fingerprinting, they don't know what really is happening when our friends DO give them the finger.

3. Even more devious individuals have been know to spray the finger or thumb area beforehand with New Skin (a spray-on first-aid "bandage" found in any drugstore). This leaves the surface very smooth and almost incapable of rendering a print.

For a complete description and analaysis of the fingerprint "problem" as it applies to personal identification, we would suggest you read THE PAPER TRIP I (if you haven't already). Price is $17.95 from Eden Press. Especially provocative are ways individuals can get around established print records, such as those maintained by the FBI, so that the computers will not recognize them at all. And totally without surgery, too!

MORE HANDY HINTS THEY NEVER TAUGHT IN DRIVER'S ED...

It is now possible to change your eye color through the use of colored contact lenses. One such line of lenses is called Softcolors, manufactured by Ciba Vision Care. Depending on your own eye color, these lenses can produce more intense and vivid greens, blues, amber and aqua. Ask your eye care specialist.

Don't let lack of a car prevent you from obtaining a driver's license. Some individuals may not own a car, or be able to borrow one or rent one. A quick way to get a vehicle for the driving test — and one not traceable to the applicant — is to rent a car from a driving school. Many schools will hire out an instructor and a car for a small fee, usually about $25. The Yellow Pages is the place to look first. Tell the driving school up front that you already have had a license and/or training, and that all you need is for someone to take you in for the test. In most states the license inspector will want to verify the license of the person who brought the new licensee in for the driving test.

In recent years, because of the revival of draft registration, we have heard tales of wholesale "snooping" by Selective Service in order to get the names of young men who have not yet registered. One of the easiest ways this could have been accomplished is through buying the lists of all known drivers between certain ages. This is indeed the practice in most states, but since 1969, thanks to then-governor Ronald Reagan, California's DMV has refused to make available "in bulk form" the names of licensed drivers. The DMV requires two major elements of identification, such as name and date of birth, before it will comply with requests for driver information. Now if the SS folks had that, they wouldn't be asking in the first place, right...?

The number on your driver's license will likely stay with you over the years unless you change your name, in which case the Soundex system will do it for you, OR, you leave the state or quit driving long enough (four years, say) for the state's files to be purged. When you reapply you will probably receive a new number. Why bother? More and more computer files, especially those useful to creditors and investigators, are keyed to driver's license numbers. Unless your number changes along with your name, you may not be gaining much new privacy.

In most states if you are obviously over 21 you will not need a birth certificate to apply for a driver's license. This requirement is primarily for minors, who must prove their initial eligibility.

Some of the best answers to bureaucratic inquiries that get too close to matters are: "I don't know."; "Not Applicable."; "The matter is pending."; "I've applied, but not received anything yet."; "I'm really confused; perhaps you could explain in more detail."; and "Unknwon."



In case you missed it earlier the smoothest paper trip uses transfer licenses. People will go to a state they know issues licenses on the spot, such as those that use Polaroid processes. They will apply for a license there under their new name, obtain the license, and return to their home state. At this point they can either turn in the new out-of-state license or recite the license number for verification. In either case, their home state will end up providing a new license with a new name and a new number. This will end any computer links with the old identity. If Social Security numbers are involved (by either state) the applicant merely has to claim he does not have one (see next chapter for ideas on this theme), and the licensing agency will create one for him with its own system. Mind you, this won't be a "real" SSN, and it won't be provided to the Social Secutiry people either, but it will serve to convince just about anyone who cared to ask. The applicant could also create his own SSN for licensing purposes, since it won't be verified. See our SSN chart for possibilities.

DRIVER'S LICENSE CODES AND VALIDATIONS

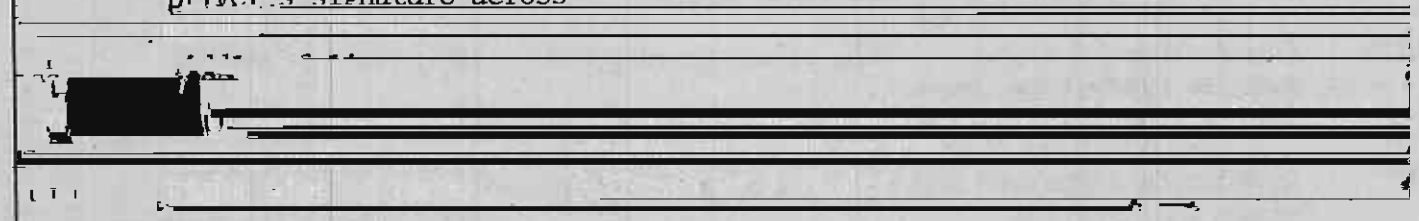
Each state has a unique numbering scheme for its license, which may have both letters and digits, and can be as long as 19 characters. Although many such numbering systems are sequential and without coded meaning, a big minority do create a special license number coded by both personal identifiers and departmental needs.

The states all "validate" their licenses in special ways also, usually by an official's signature and/or the presence of the state seal on the face of the license. The licenses issued to minors usually have some unique difference from the license issued to adults, and this provides another form of validation.

In the following charts we present, state by state, the basic data relative to each state's driver's license. How each license is validated, in effect, made "legal," is spelled out. How the license numbers are composed and/or coded is also detailed. Finally, we have provided the name of the manufacturer and the type of material used to produce each state's particular license.

PLEASE NOTE, however, that many states are right now in the process of changing to new formats for their licenses. As this is occurring, two, and even three, different formats of a state's license might be concurrently valid. The information we are providing applies *only* to the most current format in use. We fully anticipate new developments and new formats, which we will treat appropriately in future editions and revisions of *THE PAPER TRIP II*.

STATE	VALIDATION SHOWN BY:	LICENSE NUMBER	MFGR. & PROCESS
ALA	State seal overlaps photo; terminal location below signature.	Up to 7 digits without spacing, not coded.	NBS (Imaging Systems Div) plastic card.
ALASKA	Commissioner signature & camera number overlap photo.	Up to 7 digits without spacing, not coded.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
ARIZ	State seal on front; Director's signature at bottom.	1 or 2 letters, followed by 5 or 6 numbers, not coded (7 digits maximum).	NBS, polyester coating on front.
ARK	State seal, camera number overlap photo.	SSN or assigned number, at licensee's option.	NBS, laminated front & back.
CALIF	See-thru hologram of state seal & DMV logo.	1 letter and 4-7 digits without spacing, not coded.	Plastic base, credit card style, non-embossed.
COLO	Large state seal in data area. Small state seal overlaps bottom of photo and data card.	Up to 3 letters & up to 6 digits. Adult licenses prefixed: R=1992, L=1991, K=1990, J=1989.	NBS, photographic, encased in plastic.
CONN	Commissioner's signature & camera number overlap photo.	9 digits, no spacing.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
DEL	State seal, director's signature overlap photo.	1-7 digits, not coded, not spaced.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
WASH D.C.	Administrator's signature at bottom.	SSN, or assigned number.	Polaroid, laminated.
FLA	Small state seal, camera number overlap photo. Hidden seals visible under reflective light.	SOUNDEX system. Begins with first letter of surname. 2-digit group is year of birth.	NBS, laminated.
GA	Commissioner, governor's signatures. State seal overlaps photo.	Up to 9 digits, not coded. SSN or control number is used.	NBS, plastic sealed.
HAWAII	Rainbow across license. Driver's signature across	SSN, or assigned number.	NBS, plastic card, data embossed.



STATE	VALIDATIONS SHOWN BY:	LICENSE NUMBER	MFGR. & PROCESS
ILL	Blue state outline; 3-digit number overlaps photo.	First letter of surname, followed by 11 digits: Digits 1-6 = name, coded; digits 7 & 8 = yr. of birth; digits 9-11 = birthdate and sex, coded.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
IND	Camera number overlaps photo. "INDIANA" pattern is repeated in laminate.	10 digit number, spaced 4-2-4.	NBS, protective coating.
IOWA	Director's signature & station number overlap photo.	SSN, or assigned number.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
KANSAS	State seal on front. "KANSAS" pattern repeated over data area.	SSN or assigned number: K plus 8 digits	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
KY	State seal on front; Sig. and camera number overlap photo.	SSN or assigned 9 or 10 digit number.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
LA	State seal and camera number overlap photo.	9 digits, no spacing, not coded. First two digits are zeros.	NBS, protective coating.
MAINE	State seal overlaps photo.	7 digits, computer generated.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
MD.	State seal over date of birth. Administrator's signature on reverse.	SOUNDEX: First letter of surname followed by digits: 1-3 = Last name, coded; 4-6 = First name, coded; 7-9 = Middle name, coded; 10-12 = Birthdate, coded.	Polaroid, plastic sealed
MASS	Registrar's signature, state seal, camera number overlap photo.	SSN, or assigned number beginning with "S" followed by 8 digits.	Polaroid, plastic sealed.
MICH	Embossed state seal; pale blue seal in data area.	SOUNDEX system, same as used by Maryland, above.	NBS, laminated.
MINN	Embossed data on card.	SOUNDEX, same as used by Maryland, above.	NBS, embossed and laminated.
MISS	Commissioner's signature in photo area; seal overlaps photo.	SSN, or assigned number.	NBS, plastic sealed.
MO	Director's signature and state seal overlap photo.	SSN or assigned number.	NBS, protective coating.